OUR COVER

Arm in arm . . . Towards 'A new partnership'

Like the ancient but sophisticated methods of sustainable cultivation employed by the forest-dwelling Kayapo people of Brazil's vast Amazon basin, indigenous wisdoms and lifestyles are not vestiges of the past but a vital part of the present and future. During 1993—proclaimed by the United Nations as the International Year for the World's Indigenous People—worldwide efforts are being encouraged to foster, in the words of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, "unity through diversity" for the 300 million indigenous people scattered across the globe. The Year will provide a much-needed platform for dramatizing the needs of the citizens of these "first nations", which have special ties to the lands of their origin. Arm in arm, as portrayed by the colourful Kayapo men on our cover, they will seek—in line with the Indigenous Year theme—"A new partnership" with the international community based on mutual respect and understanding.

Cover photograph by J. P. Ripper/Impact Visuals

Published quarterly in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish
Department of Public Information
New York

Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information Marco Vianello-Chiodo
Editor-in-Chief Betty Flynn-Connors
Editorial Staff
Ghulam Ahmed Nanji, Writer/Deputy Editor
Nancy Seufert-Barr, Production Editor
Sergei Vinogradov, Writer
Hugi Olafsson, Writer
Contributors Elsa B. Endrst, Harold Fruchtbaum
Editorial Assistants Annette Ifill, Herminia Roque,
Geraldine Y. Velandria, Teresita Q. Victoria
Production Staff Laura Frischeisen, Chief Typesetter
Marc Chalamet, French Edition
Susan Davis, Mechanical layout
Designer Wylton James

The *UN Chronicle* (USPS 647-380) is published quarterly by the United Nations Department of Public Information in New York. Not an official record. All material may be freely reprinted but acknowledgement is requested. A copy of the publication containing reprinted material should be sent to *UN Chronicle*, United Nations, Room DC1-530, New York 10017. All editorial correspondence should be forwarded to the same address.

Subscriptions should be sent to United Nations Publications, Room DC2-0853, New York 10017. The subscription rate for academic and non-profit organizations and individuals is \$20 for one year. For commercial institutions, the rate is \$28 annually. Postmaster: send address changes to United Nations Publications, United Nations, Room DC2-0853, New York 10017. Second-class postage paid at New York and additional mailing offices.

Printed on recycled paper

Contents

Covering the period:
1 January to April 1993

Indigenous Year, 1993 p. 40

Yugoslavia p. 4

Somalia p. 13

UN CHRONICLE

A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE
Volume XXX, Number 2 June 1993

COVER: International Year for the World's Indigenous People, 1993—Seeking a new partnership **40**

Political News

Ethnic conflicts in former Yugoslavia worsen **4**
Peace-keeping operation in Somalia expanded **13**
Bleak situation in Angola **18**
Elections delayed in Mozambique **21**
Voter registration in Cambodia successful **22**
Central America: Truth Commission reports **26**
Haiti moves towards democracy **29**
Iraq continues to challenge UN **30**
Western Sahara: referendum preparations **34**
Report on former Soviet republics **35**
Difficult transition seen for South Africa **36**
Middle East notes **38**
Developments in Afghanistan, Cyprus **39**

Economic, social issues

Human Rights Conference convenes in Vienna **52**
Human Rights Commission adopts child labour plan **54**
Commission on the Status of Women **58**
Disability draft rules proposed **60**
1993 World Social Situation Report **62**
Development Forum **65**
Sustainable Development Commission meets **66**

Other UN news

Conference on Disarmament **68**
Outer space **69**
Decolonization 'not over' **70**
Law of the Sea **71**
Special Committee on UN Charter **72**
Ford Foundation report on UN financing **73**

In Every Issue

The 38th Floor **2**
Feature: WFUNA: The art of attracting fine art **74**
BookWatch **76**
News Almanac **77**
Stamp Corner **78**
Coming Up **80**

READEX
FICHE

The 38th Floor

Challenges and opportunities in the 21st century

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at the inauguration ceremony for the UN University headquarters in Tokyo.

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has outlined the main challenges and opportunities for the Organization in the twenty-first century. Following are excerpts from his 18 February statement at the inauguration of the new headquarters building of the United Nations University in Tokyo, Japan:

We all know how the cold war, and the repeated use of the veto in the Security Council, hobbled the United Nations. The Charter was never allowed to work as its framers intended.

The cold war had the effect—as we are now only too painfully aware—of camouflaging many long-standing disputes and differences within and between countries. Matters which were not salient in the ideological struggles of the cold war were swept under the carpet.

But in some respects, the international system was actually working during that period. Some important foundations were laid.

The end of the cold war has brought chaos in its wake. Ethnic strife has erupted in several parts of the world. The discredited ideologies of the past have been replaced by ancient confrontations and even older political concepts.

These pent-up conflicts, suddenly released, threaten stability in many parts of the world. Many of these conflicts go back for generations. They are tribal, ethnic and religious in origin. Although external States may become involved in such conflicts, they do not usually involve States as such, but armed groups, armed factions holding allegiance to one or more leaders. Fragmentation threatens the cohesion of States.

Today, in a new era, the United Nations is taking on unprecedented responsibilities. The limited peace-keeping role of the past is being expanded into new political fields: what I call peacemaking and peace-building. The old rigid compartmentalization—the division between security and development—is being superseded.

The United Nations, founded amid great hopes nearly half a century ago, is at a crossroads. The world could now move to a new phase of international relations. With the necessary political will, creativity and patience, the United Nations can be made to work as its founders intended. We must take account of the achievements of the past, and meet the challenges of the present, in order to plan for the future.

Four challenges

Mr. Boutros-Ghali then discussed four challenges which had to be met regarding the issues of war and peace:

- The question of economic and social development, since many conflicts were caused as much by dashed economic hopes as by political problems.
- Strengthening the framework of international law and agreements, with the "creation of a culture of human rights" as a central concern.
- Meeting the "crisis of failed States", which meant finding a "balance between the integrity of the State and the demands of an even more interdependent world".
- The ecological future of our planet, where a "breakthrough in consensus-building" had occurred at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Finally, the Secretary-General declared: "In the aftermath of war, the nations have tried repeatedly to take steps to avoid future wars. At the end of the cold war, the United Nations is the only forum in which the peoples and Governments of the world can address the problems of the post-cold-war era.

"As the United Nations is called upon to build a new world, a new United Nations must itself be built. This will require patience, wisdom and political imagination. It will require, above all, the support of the people of the world."

An Agenda for Peace

The Security Council met in January, February and March to continue its consideration of the Secretary-General's *"An Agenda for Peace"* report *(A/47/277-S24111)*, issuing three statements on regional arrangements and organizations, humanitarian assistance, and the safety of UN forces and personnel deployed in conditions of strife.

On 28 January, the Council encouraged *(S/25184)* regional bodies to improve coordination with the UN in such areas as exchange of information for early-warning and monitoring activities. The Council supported the Secretary-General's intention to ask regional organizations that had not yet sought observer status at the UN to do so.

The Council noted the constructive relationship it enjoyed with organizations such as the Arab League, the European Community, the Organization of Islamic Conference, the Organization of American States and the Organization of African Unity. It welcomed the role of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, together with the European Community, in the implementation of pertinent Council resolutions.

On 26 February, the Council welcomed *(S/25344)* the Agenda's observation on the relationship of humanitarian assistance to peacemaking and peace-keeping. It stated that sometimes there was a close connection between acute needs for humanitarian aid and threats to international peace and security, and that the impartial provision of such assistance could be of critical importance in preventive diplomacy. Concern was voiced over the increase in deliberate obstruction of relief delivery and violence against humanitarian personnel, as well as misappropriation of assistance in many parts of the world, particularly in the former Yugoslavia, Iraq and Somalia, which required urgent attention, the Council declared. The Secretary-General was also invited to address the problem of land-mines as a matter of special concern.

On 31 March, the Council declared *(S/25493)* that attacks and other acts of violence against UN forces and personnel were unacceptable, and might require the Council to take further measures to ensure safety of UN personnel. It demanded that States ensure their safety and act promptly and effectively to deter, prosecute and punish all those responsible for attacks and violence. In cases where States were unable or unwilling to curb violence, the Council might consider appropriate measures to ensure that persons responsible were held accountable.

The Secretary-General was requested to report as soon as possible on existing arrangements for protecting UN personnel and recommend ways for enhancing their safety.

Excerpts from statements by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali made between 1 January and 31 March 1993.

Women in science . . .

To recognize and encourage the role which women scientists and technologists can play in the development process is likely to release resources and open up potentials which otherwise would have been lost. It is economic common sense, and it also promotes the human rights and development of women.

To the First Conference and General Assembly of the
Third World Organization for Women in Science,
Cairo, 11 January

Three great tasks . . .

These then are the three great tasks of the United Nations as set down by the Charter:

Without peace, there can be no development and there can be no democracy. Without development, there can be no democracy and, lacking basic well-being, societies will tend to fall into conflict. Without democracy, no real development can occur. And without such development, peace cannot long be maintained. Thus the three great priorities are interlocked.

The United Nations is the world's source of hope and the world's forum for action. Only with an understanding of the comprehensive, integrated nature of the work we face, will we succeed.

Upon receiving the Christian Herter Award
from the Boston World Affairs Council,
Boston, Massachusetts, 16 March

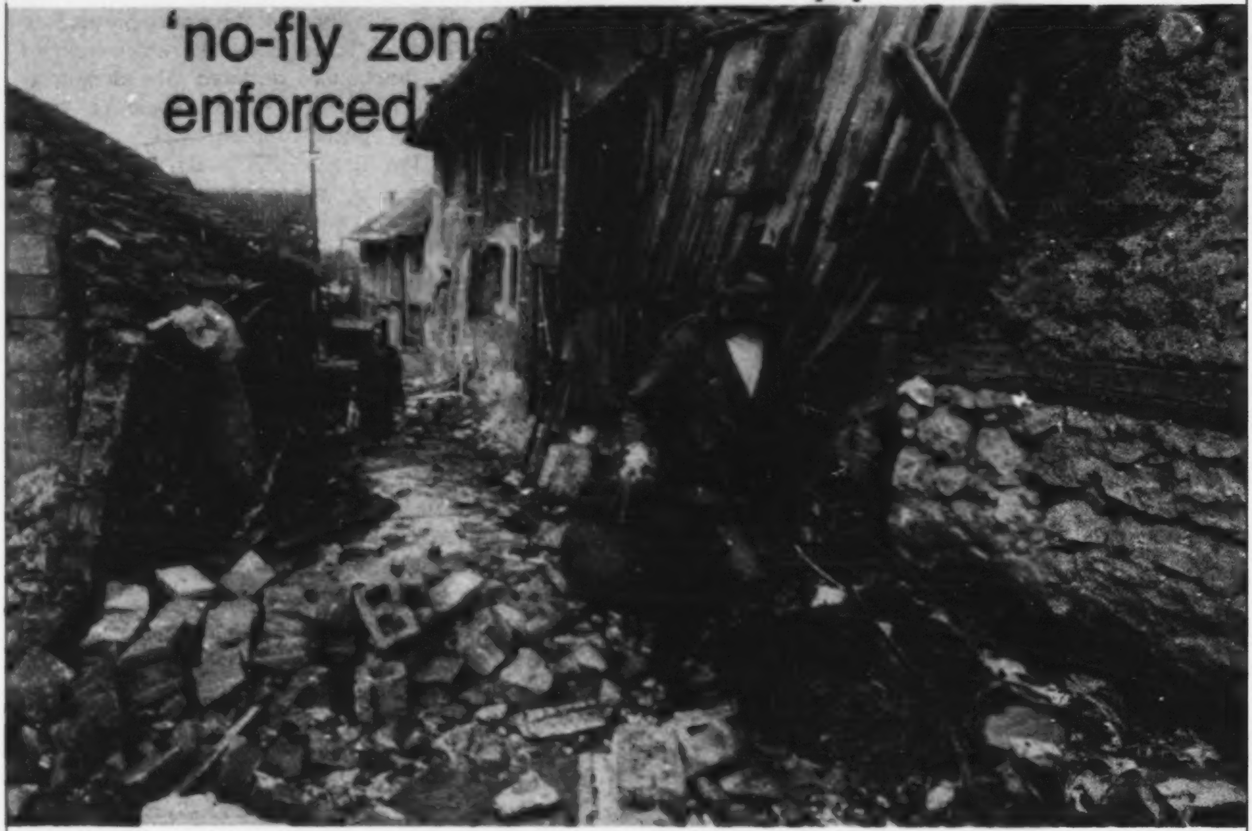
Democracy and the UN . . .

Democracy is not a word that appears in the Charter. But with the opening words, "We the Peoples of the United Nations", democratization is built into the world Organization. Whether or not its Member States are democracies themselves, they are joined in a structure of equal representation. Democratization is the thread which runs through all the work of the Organization. Within nations as much as within the family of nations, democracy should underpin the structures of international peace and security.

To the American Publishers Association,
Washington, D. C., 25 March

Situation worsens as peace process continues

War crimes tribunal approved, 'no-fly zone enforced



Shelling and sniping has reduced much of Sarajevo to rubble, forcing its citizens to live in continuous fear.

AP/Wide World Photo

As the situation in the former Yugoslavia steadily worsened in the first three months of 1993, the United Nations supported intensive negotiations to contain and conclude the ethnic conflicts raging throughout the area. UN officials, describing the humanitarian situation as "desperate" and deteriorating daily, reported that those in need of assistance numbered nearly 4 million—up from 500,000 in December 1991, when the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) began operations there.

Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, reported "numerous cases of summary executions and death threats, disappearances, torture and ill treatment of detainees and destruction of property, including religious sites", in the former Yugoslavia.

Amidst continuing reports of systematic "ethnic cleansing" and sexual assaults, the Security Council established an international war crimes tribunal to consider "serious violations" of international law committed in that area since 1991. It also authorized States and regional organizations "to take measures to ensure compliance" with the six-month-old ban on military flights over Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had been violated at least some 465 times since November 1992.

The mandate of the 23,000-strong UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR), in the region since February 1992, was renewed until the end of June 1993. It has contingents in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Appeals were made for security and stability in Croatia's "pink zones"—Serb-controlled parts of Croatia lying outside the UN Protected Areas (UNPAs).

Intensive peace talks took place in New York and Geneva for an overall political settlement of the crisis, under the auspices of the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and Lord David Owen. By the end of March, a four-part peace package for Bosnia and Herzegovina had been accepted by the Bosnian Presidency and the Bosnian Croats, including agreements on human rights monitoring, a boundary commission, creation of 10 semi-autonomous provinces, and interim arrangements.

On 26 February, Lieutenant-General Lars-Eric Wahlgren of Sweden, Force Commander of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon since 1988, replaced Lieutenant-General Satish Nambiar of India as UNPROFOR Force Commander.

Between 1 January and 31 March, the Security Council met, either formally or in consultations, on 17 occasions, adopting five resolutions and issuing 12 statements.

Tribunal a first

The Security Council on 22 February decided that an international tribunal "shall be established for the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991". It was the first time that the UN established an international criminal court with jurisdiction to prosecute crimes committed during armed conflict.

Unanimously adopting resolution 808 (1993), the Council asked UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to make specific proposals within 60 days for the organization and operation of such a tribunal.

France, Italy and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) had submitted reports on the tribunal's statute, composition and rules of procedure. The Council had established in October 1992 a five-member Commission of Experts to examine information and reports of alleged "war crimes".

The Commission reported *(S/25274)* it had received several thousand pages of documentation, as well as video information, on allegations of grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and violations of international humanitarian law, and was preparing a database on all reported crimes.

The Commission also arranged for an investigation by a team of forensic experts of the mass grave of Ovcara, near Vukovar, in the UNPA Sector East in Croatia. Preliminary conclusions revealed that a mass execution had taken place there, probably of patients and medical staff of Vukovar Hospital who had disappeared during the evacuation of that facility on 20 November 1991.

UN Photo 182697/M. Grant

By the end of March, peace talks, such as this meeting at UN Headquarters in New York on 25 March, had produced a four-part peace plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

YUGOSLAV CRISIS

Ban on flights

The Council on 31 March authorized Member States, acting nationally or through regional organizations, to take measures, one week from that day, to ensure compliance with the ban on military flights in Bosnia and Herzegovina's airspace.

The ban, instituted in October 1992, excluded UNPROFOR and other flights in support of UN operations, including humanitarian assistance.

The Council took action to enforce the ban by adopting resolution 816 (1993) by a vote of 14 to none, with 1 abstention (China).

Acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the Council asked Member States concerned, the Secretary-General and UNPROFOR to coordinate closely as to measures being taken.

The ban would continue to exclude flights authorized by UNPROFOR, including those for humanitarian assistance. UNPROFOR was to continue to monitor compliance with the ban.

In preambular paragraphs, the Council deplored the failure of some parties concerned to cooperate fully with UNPROFOR airfield monitors in implementing earlier resolutions and expressed deep concern over reported violations of the ban on military flights in Bosnia and Herzegovina's airspace.

Many violations reported

On 17 March, the Council strongly condemned violations of the "no-fly zone" over Bosnia and Herzegovina's airspace and demanded that they cease immediately. The number of observed violations was reported to be 465 since monitoring operations began in November 1992.

In a statement by Council President Terence Christopher O'Brien of New Zealand, the Council demanded from the Bosnian Serbs an immediate explanation of the aerial bombardment of two Bosnian towns—Gladovici and Osatica—by planes seen leaving in the direction of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

The Council asked the Secretary-General to ensure that an investigation took place into the possible use of the Yugoslav territory to launch air attacks against Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Council President was to demand that the Yugoslav Foreign Minister and the Bosnian Serb leader take immediate action to prevent any repetition of such attacks.

On 19 March, Force Commander Wahlgren, in a cable to the Secretary-General, warned that the use of force to ban military flights over Bosnia and Herzegovina would have "negative consequences" for UNPROFOR in the area. He expressed particular concern that the delivery of humanitarian aid and the safety and security of UNPROFOR personnel would be jeopardized.

UNPROFOR mandate extended

On 19 February, in resolution 807 (1993), the Force's mandate had been extended for an interim period until 31 March. Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Security Council, in unanimously adopting resolution 815 (1993) on 30 March, extended UNPROFOR's mandate for an additional interim period until 30 June.

In resolution 815, the Council also supported the International Conference Co-Chairmen in their efforts to define the future status of territories comprising the UNPAs, which were, it said, integral parts of Croatia. Full respect was demanded for international humanitarian law and in particular the Geneva Conventions.

UNPROFOR was established under Council resolution 743 (1992) on 21 February 1992 for an initial period of 12 months. It is principally deployed in the three former Yugoslav Republics of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Macedonia.

A Nordic battalion of nearly 700—involving troops from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden—was dispatched to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in February, following authorization by the Council in December 1992 for UNPROFOR's deployment to monitor borders with Albania and Yugoslavia, and report on any development which would "undermine confidence and stability in Macedonia or threaten its territory".

UNPROFOR's mandate extends to Serbia and Montenegro and it has a liaison presence in Slovenia. Its current strength is 22,950 military and civilian police personnel.

UN Photo 159301/J. Isaac

UNPROFOR troops monitoring the skies over Bosnia and Herzegovina to ensure "no-flight" order.

Situation worsens

Peace talks proceed

The overall peace agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina, worked out during seven months of negotiations between September 1992 and March 1993, is contained in four separate documents. Two of them—the constitutional principles and the military agreement—have been signed by all three parties. By the end of March, the remaining two, pertaining to the map and the interim arrangements, had been signed by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Bosnian Croats.

The International Conference Co-Chairmen conducted five rounds of peace talks between 2 January and 25 March to achieve an overall political settlement of the crisis through a complete cessation of hostilities and the establishment of a constitutional framework for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Council on 8 January reaffirmed the need to respect fully Bosnia and Herzegovina's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence.

In a statement by Council President Yoshio Hatano of Japan, the Council fully endorsed the Secretary-General's view in his 6 January report *(S/25050)* that it was the duty of all parties involved in the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, "despite the recent provocation", to cooperate with the Co-Chairmen in bringing that conflict to an end swiftly.

The Council appealed to all parties involved to cooperate to the fullest with the peace efforts and warned any party which would oppose an overall political settlement against the consequences of such an attitude. It stated that lack of cooperation and non-compliance with relevant Council resolutions would compel it to review the situation "in an urgent and most serious manner, and to consider further necessary measures".

The Secretary-General's report described the activities of the International Conference, which had resumed in Geneva on 2 January with the participation of the three sides to the conflict: the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the leadership of both the Bosnian Serbs and the Bosnian Croats. Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia were also represented. (The Geneva phase of the Conference first met on 3 September 1992.)

UN Photo 182617/M. Tzovaras

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, David Owen *(left)* and Cyrus Vance *(right)*, brief reporters outside the Security Council.

To be discussed at the Conference were: a sustainable cessation of hostilities; demilitarization of Sarajevo; an agreement on a pull-back from the military front line in a way that reinforces and goes with the grain of an overall political settlement; free access of all citizens in and out of besieged cities and towns; and free movement of humanitarian aid.

The January talks represented the first time that the three sides to the Bosnian conflict had sat down together for peace talks, the Secretary-General observed.

The Secretary-General described the talks as "a historic step forward in the pursuit of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina". All delegations had pledged their cooperation in the search for peaceful solutions, he said.

Agreement on constitutional principles

The Conference resumed on 10 January. On 20 January, the Secretary-General reported that the constitutional principles proposed by the Co-Chairmen had been unconditionally accepted by all sides. Agreement on the proposed provincial map of a 10-province structure would be sought.

A further round of peace talks was held in Geneva from 23 to 30 January.

Following the peace talks in New York from 3 to 8 February, the Secretary-General reported *(S/25248)* on 8 February that the Bosnian Government was not willing to discuss either the provincial boundaries or interim governmental arrangements, and declined to meet with the other two sides.

The Bosnian Serb side continued to maintain that many predominantly Serb areas had been excluded from Serb majority provinces. It would accept and sign the map, it said, only if the populations of contested areas were consulted. That was rejected by the Co-Chairmen on the ground that there had been "so much 'ethnic cleansing' and displacement of population in Bosnia and Herzegovina" that such consultations would not be democratic.

The Bosnian Croats had accepted both the map and the constitutional principles. The Bosnian Serbs, however, still rejected a revised map with modifications in the proposed provincial boundaries.

To stop the war

On 8 February, Mr. Vance told the Security Council during consultations that the first and fundamental objective of the peace talks was to stop the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Both he and Lord Owen were concerned about the danger of the conflict spreading in the Balkan region, and were committed to stopping the criminal practice of "ethnic cleansing" and reversing its consequences.

They had proposed a range of mechanisms for protecting human and minority rights in the future, including the setting up of a constitutional court, a human rights court, four ombudsmen with broad powers of investigation and action, and an international commission on human rights for Bosnia and Herzegovina. They strongly advocated the establishment of an international criminal court to try persons accused of crimes against humanity.

The International Conference, he stressed, had constantly sought to maintain the status of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a sovereign, independent, integral and multi-ethnic State. "We rejected proposals from the outset for Bosnia and Herzegovina to be organized as a confederation with three constituent units—in effect three States-within-a-State", he said.

On 10 February, the Co-Chairmen welcomed the United States decision to take an active role in the former Yugoslavia (by the appointment of Reginald Bartholomew as its special envoy to the international talks on the former Yugoslavia) and to back its political commitment with the readiness to enforce a comprehensive settlement.

Airport offensive deplored

In an 11 February statement, the Secretary-General deplored a major offensive by forces of the Bosnian Government against the Sarajevo suburb of Ilidza abutting the airport. That development had disrupted the flow of much-needed humanitarian assistance, he said.

The airport had been caught in the crossfire and UNPROFOR soldiers there were in "alert state red", confining them to their protected shelters.

The Secretary-General called urgently on the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to cease hostilities and end the continuing cycle of conflict that had already caused too many casualties and inflicted so much destruction.

AP/Wide World Photo

Muslim and Croat prisoners carry sacks of bread for their lunch at a detention centre in Manjara, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Peace talks resume . . .

On 24 February, the Security Council endorsed the statement made on 23 February in Washington, D.C. by United States President Bill Clinton and Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, calling on the leaders of the parties to the peace talks on Bosnia and Herzegovina to come to New York immediately to resume discussions with a view to the early conclusion of an agreement to end the conflict.

Peace talks were resumed in New York from 1 to 6 March.

On 12 March, the Secretary-General reported *(S/25403)* that after six months of intensive negotiations, it was crucial that the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serbs agree to and sign the provincial map as quickly as possible so that implementation of the peace plan might begin.

He noted that agreement had been reached between the three Bosnian parties to establish an international human rights monitoring mission, based in Sarajevo and supported by international human rights monitors, deployed throughout the country, particularly in areas affected by ethnic cleansing.

On 3 March, President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the military part of the peace plan. A major agreement had also been reached by Bosnian Croats and the Government "on matters relating to the Constitution".

A UN official said that all three parties to the conflict had agreed to two of the three elements of the peace plan—an important step towards "the ultimate goal of getting a political agreement on which a meaningful cease-fire and a cessation of hostility could be based". The missing piece was an agreement on the provincial map. It was stressed that the three

Situation worsens

parts were interrelated.

... But attacks continue

Also on 3 March, the Security Council condemned the continuing military attacks in eastern Bosnia by Serb paramilitary units "even as peace talks are continuing" in New York. The Council was particularly concerned about the fall of the town of Cerska and neighbouring villages.

In a statement by Council President Donald McKinnon, Foreign Minister of New Zealand, the Council demanded that the killings of innocent civilians and other atrocities stop. Those guilty of crimes against international humanitarian law would be held "individually responsible" by the world community, it said.

The Council also demanded an immediate cessation of all military action throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, unimpeded access of humanitarian relief supplies, especially to the besieged cities of eastern Bosnia, and evacuation of the wounded. UNPROFOR's presence in eastern Bosnia should be immediately increased. Leaders of all parties to the conflict should remain fully engaged in the peace talks to reach quickly a fair settlement.

A further round of peace talks was held in New York from 16 to 25 March. On 25 March, the Co-Chairmen reported "a major step forward" in the signing by the Bosnian Muslims of the provincial map and the interim arrangements. However, they regretted that the Bosnian Serbs had not signed.

The Council also welcomed the signatures by President Izetbegovic and Mate Boban, leader of the Bosnian Croats, of all four documents of the Vance-Owen peace plan.

In a statement by Council President O'Brien, the Council called upon the remaining party to sign without delay the map and the interim arrangements, and to cease its violence, offensive military actions, "ethnic cleansing" and obstruction of humanitarian assistance. The Council stated its readiness to take steps required to bring about the peace settlement and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities by all parties.

On 26 March, the Secretary-General reported *(S/25479)* that the Co-Chairmen's peace package provided the "only mechanism available for the re-establishment of peace, with justice and respect for human rights, in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

He strongly urged the Council to approve the whole peace package and call upon the Bosnian Serbs to sign the map and interim arrangements "so that attention may be concentrated henceforth on the implementation of the plan".

After seven months of intensive negotiations, he said, only one side—the Bosnian Serbs—"lags behind" in signature of two of the four documents making up the overall package.

All three sides had agreed to an international human rights monitoring mission and a boundary commission, he said. Any enforcement of the "no-fly zone", tightening of sanctions or the placing of UN military observers around the border of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, should be accompanied by the Council's unqualified endorsement of the peace package, he recommended.

World Court asks for prevention of genocide

The International Court of Justice on 8 April issued an Order which called upon the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to "immediately . . . take all measures within its power to prevent commission of the crime of genocide . . . whether directed against the Muslim population of Bosnia and Herzegovina or against any other national, ethnical, racial or religious group".

The provisional measures were in response to a suit initiated by Bosnia and Herzegovina on 20 March.

Crisis in Croatia

A Croatian military offensive in January against strategic locations in and adjacent to a UN Protected Area was followed by the forcible removal by Serb forces of heavy weapons under UN control.

The Security Council on 22 January deplored the Croatian army offensive that took place that day in the "pink zones", as well as violations by all sides of the UN peace-keeping plan. It appealed to all parties to cooperate fully with the peace process in the region.

In a statement by Council President Hatano, the Council urged Croatian authorities "to withdraw their forces to positions occupied before the offensive" and thereby support efforts of the UNPROFOR Force Commander to diffuse the situation.

Also on 22 January, the Secretary-General deplored the "unilateral military action" by Croatian authorities in the "pink zones". That action, he said, was a "setback" to UNPROFOR efforts in Croatia to achieve a peaceful transfer of control in the "pink zones".

He reported that Croatian President Franjo Tudjman had told the UNPROFOR Force Commander that the military action was aimed at providing security for the construction of a bridge at Maslenica. His forces would not withdraw from the site, but had no intention of extending operations to other areas.

The UNPROFOR Force Commander also called upon local Serb authorities to exercise restraint and not to embark upon a cycle of action and retaliation, which could have "calamitous consequences".

On 25 January, the Council, in unanimously adopting resolution 802 (1993), demanded that Croatian armed forces immediately cease hostile activities in or adjacent to the UNPAs and withdraw from those areas, and that the Serb local authorities return the heavy weapons recently seized from UNPROFOR-controlled storage areas.

Comply strictly

The Council also demanded that all parties concerned comply strictly with agreed cease-fire arrangements and respect fully the safety of UN personnel. Croatian forces must immediately cease their attacks against UNPROFOR in the conduct of its duty of protecting civilians in the UNPAs.

All parties concerned must cooperate unconditionally in implementing the UN peace-keeping plan, including the disbanding and demobilization of Serb Territorial Defence units or other similar units. All concerned should refrain from any actions which might undermine current efforts aimed at reaching a political settlement.

On 26 January, the Secretary-General deeply deplored continuing military action by Croatian armed forces, which had placed the entire peace process in the region in jeopardy, and appealed to both sides to cease military action forthwith.

On 27 January, the Council again called on all parties in the former Yugoslavia to cease immediately military action within or adjacent to the UNPAs in Croatia and demanded full respect for the safety of UN personnel.

In a 10 February report *(S/25264)*, the Secretary-General said that unless a negotiated settlement was reached between the Croatian Government and the Serb population in the "pink zones", a "sound basis would not exist" for renewing the UNPROFOR mandate in Croatia.

The primary reason for the Force's deployment in Croatia, he said, was to create conditions under which a political settlement could be negotiated.

Warning that the situation could lead to large-scale hostilities if UNPROFOR was withdrawn from the region, the Secretary-General said he had asked the Co-Chairmen to pursue a solution urgently.

UN Photo 159241/J. Isaac

Woman of Croatia

On 25 March, the Secretary-General reported *(S/25470)* that any termination of the UNPROFOR presence would entail the strong likelihood of an outbreak of renewed hostilities. An extension of its mandate was required to provide more time for a meaningful conclusion of negotiations between the Croatian Government and the Serb populations in the UNPAs and the "pink zones".

Humanitarian deliveries impeded

The Security Council on 25 January warned parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina of "serious consequences", in accordance with relevant Council resolutions, if delivery of humanitarian relief assistance continued to be impeded. All parties concerned, in particular Serb paramilitary units, must "cease and desist forthwith from all violations of international humanitarian law", particularly the deliberate interference with humanitarian convoys.

In a statement by Council President Hatano, the Council deeply regretted that the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina had "imposed great limits" on the international community in the fulfilment of its humanitarian mandate. The Secretary-General was asked to review continuously the possibility of air-dropping relief supplies to areas isolated by the conflict.

On 2 February, a Bosnian interpreter was killed and the leader of a Danish convoy was seriously injured in a shelling attack on a humanitarian convoy returning to Metkovic after delivering supplies of food, medicines and blankets to central Bosnia, according to UNHCR. Both persons worked for a Danish relief agency.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata strongly condemned the attack and said that only five days earlier she had been given assurances by leaders of all three Bosnian parties that they would respect the humanitarian nature of relief convoys and guarantee them safe passage. She said she was holding the leaders personally responsible for the safety of UNHCR humanitarian convoys and demanded that a full investigation be conducted.

On 12 February, Mrs. Ogata condemned the Bosnian Serb policy of denying humanitarian convoys access to the besieged enclaves of eastern Bosnia as a means of "starving people out of their homes".

In a letter to the Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, she reminded him of his repeated assurances that such convoys would be guaranteed unhindered, safe passage, and pointed out that "victims do have a right to receive international assistance in their place of residence".

Situation worsens

Operations suspended

On 17 February, Mrs. Ogata suspended many UNHCR operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina because of the "failure of all parties" to respect humanitarian principles. She decided to move UNHCR convoys back to their bases and suspend immediately all relief activities in Serbian-controlled Bosnia.

She also recommended: suspension of all UNHCR activities in Sarajevo and withdrawal of most staff, leaving only a skeleton presence in the besieged city of 380,000 people; suspension of land convoys and the airlift to Sarajevo; and maintaining, at a reduced level, UNHCR relief operations in areas where they could still operate.

Bosnian Serbs, she reported, were refusing humanitarian convoys access to more than 100,000 besieged people in eastern Bosnian villages. "The Croats were hampering delivery of relief supplies in other areas and now the Bosnian Government itself is refusing to allow the distribution of relief to those so desperately in need in Sarajevo", she said.

For months, she pointed out, UNHCR, UN staff and non-governmental organizations had been risking their lives in the middle of a war to deliver humanitarian assistance to more than 3 million refugees and displaced persons in the former Yugoslavia.

Also on 17 February, the Council condemned the blocking of humanitarian convoys and the impeding of relief supplies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which endangered the lives of personnel delivering those supplies and placed the civilian population at risk.

In a statement by Council President Ahmed Snoussi of Morocco, the Council demanded immediate and unimpeded access for humanitarian relief supplies.

On 21 February, Mrs. Ogata decided to resume full relief operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina after receiving assurances from all parties that they would no longer hinder the delivery or distribution of humanitarian relief. The decision came following her consultations with the Secretary-General.

A new 'weapon of war'

On 11 March, the Security Council heard a report by Mrs. Ogata behind closed doors. She said that the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina was steadily deteriorating and that, in the absence of peace, the international relief effort could "not be sustained for long, at least not in its present form".

UN Photo 182628/M. Grant

Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic

Mrs. Ogata pointed out that 2.28 million people—half the original population of Bosnia and Herzegovina—received humanitarian assistance from UNHCR. During the past few weeks, she said, only half of the targeted 8,000 tonnes per week of humanitarian supplies had been delivered, symbolizing the increasing use of prohibition of relief as a weapon of war and "ethnic cleansing".

On 17 March, the UN launched a new appeal for $840 million to cover its relief assistance programme in the former Yugoslavia.

Air drops by United States

On 23 February, the Secretary-General met with United States President Bill Clinton in Washington to discuss an American humanitarian initiative and its coordination with UNHCR and UNPROFOR.

President Clinton on 25 February announced that his country would conduct humanitarian air drops over Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their purpose was to supplement land convoys, as a temporary measure, to address the immediate needs of isolated areas that could not be reached by ground. Regular overland deliveries were the best means to ensure that the long-term needs of the Bosnian population were met, he said, stressing that priority for air deliveries would be determined without regard to ethnic or religious affiliation.

Later on 25 February, the Security Council expressed strong support for the use of humanitarian air drops, in full coordination with the UN, in isolated areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina that were in critical need of relief supplies and could not be reached by ground convoys.

In a statement by President Snoussi, the Council strongly condemned once again the blocking of humanitarian convoys that, in spite of repeated demands, continued to be impeded by Serb paramilitary units, especially in the eastern parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, namely in the enclaves of Srebrenica, Cerska, Gorazde and Zepa.

The deliberate impeding of the delivery of food and humanitarian relief essential for the survival of the civilian population in Bosnia and Herzegovina constituted a violation of the Geneva Conventions, the Council said, adding it was committed to ensuring that individuals responsible for such acts were brought to justice.

Situation in Srebrenica

As the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica came under attack on 24 March, the Secretary-General called on Serb forces to halt the "unjustifiable attack" which, he said, had occurred despite explicit assurances by Bosnian Serb leaders in the area and in New York. He also was particularly anxious about the safety of UN personnel in and around Srebrenica.

On 18 March, High Commissioner Ogata expressed strong concern over obstacles preventing the delivery of vital relief supplies to the area.

"I vehemently condemn the unacceptable attitude of the Bosnian Serb military, who are preventing—despite all their verbal and written commitments—the access of humanitarian assistance to the victims", Mrs. Ogata said.

Blockade, fraud, rape

The Security Council on 10 February condemned the unjustifiable detention of Romanian vessels on the Danube. The action followed reports that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had detained Romanian vessels and threatened to detain more if Romania did not allow the passage of Yugoslav vessels on the Danube.

In a statement by President Snoussi, the Council said it was "wholly unacceptable" for the Yugoslav authorities to take "retaliatory measures" in response to action by a State fulfilling its obligations under the UN Charter. It demanded that Yugoslavia immediately release the Romanian vessels and desist from further unlawful detentions.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia informed the Committee monitoring sanctions against it that the Romanian vessels would be released.

The Council recalled President Hatano's statement on 28 January, reporting that Yugoslav vessels carrying oil from Ukraine to Serbia by way of the Danube had violated mandatory Council resolutions. The Council had called on the Ukraine to ensure that no further shipments were permitted.

In a 5 January statement, the Sanctions Committee Chairman asked for an investigation of reports of fraud aimed at facilitating the illicit import of large quantities of oil and petroleum products into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, through misuse or falsification of UN documents.

A team of medical experts, which in January investigated allegations of widespread rape in the former Yugoslavia, found strong evidence that that had occurred on a large scale during the conflict and had been committed by combatants on all sides.

Solid evidence was found that Croatian, Muslim and Serbian women had been detained for extended periods of time and raped repeatedly. However, the majority of the rapes documented had been committed against Bosnian Muslim women. In Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Croatia, rape had been used as an instrument of "ethnic cleansing", it was stated. ■

Controversy over Macedonia

A controversy over the name and status of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has delayed its joining the United Nations.

During Security Council consultations on 23 February on the admission of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the UN, Council President Ahmed Snoussi of Morocco reported on meetings held with the Foreign Minister of Greece and the Deputy Prime Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic. Council support for a quick solution to the problem was reported. It was felt that the inclusion of that country in the UN would be a factor for stability in the area.

On 30 July 1992, Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov wrote to the Secretary-General *(A/47/876-S/25147)* applying for membership, stating that its admission to the UN would be "a very significant step towards the peaceful solution of the crisis in the territory of the former Yugoslavia". He said his country had accepted Charter obligations and fully supported the UN and the enhancement of its role in promoting international peace, security and justice.

The letter was circulated as an official document on 22 January, following Council consultations concerning the receivability of the application.

In a 25 January letter to the UN *(A/47/877-S/25158)*, Greek Foreign Minister Michael Papaconstantinou objected to the application of the former Yugoslav Republic under the name "Republic of Macedonia", arguing that the move would lead to a further destabilization of the southern Balkans, both in short- and long-term perspectives.

He stated that "the exclusive use of the Macedonian name in the republic's official denomination would be a stimulus for expansionist claims not only by present nationalist activists in Skopje but by future generations as well".

Greece said the authorities in Skopje had adopted the name of a wider geographical region extending over four neighbouring countries, with only 38.5 per cent of the region commonly known as Macedonia to be found in the former Yugoslav Republic. About 51 per cent of the Macedonian geographical region are in Greece, with a population of 2.5 million people, while the remaining 10 per cent are in other neighbouring States.

Greece said it was in the Council's competence not only to resolve disputes but also to prevent them as well. "This is a clear case where preventive diplomacy is urgently needed", it said.

[On 8 April, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was admitted to the UN, raising the membership to 181.]

AP/Wide World Photo

An expanded UN Operation in Somalia—UNOSOM II—will help Somalis rebuild their economy and government.

30,000-strong UN force steps in to 'Restore Hope'

Citing its concern over the "crippling famine and drought in Somalia" compounded by civil strife, the Security Council decided on 26 March to transfer the task of securing humanitarian aid deliveries from a United States-led international force to a UN peace-keeping operation. The expanded UN Operation in Somalia—UNOSOM II—is also to help that nation take its first steps toward rebuilding its economy and government.

With 30,000 troops and civilians, UNOSOM II will be the largest peace-keeping force in UN history, surpassing the 1960-1964 UN Operation in the Congo (ONUC) and the ongoing UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). ONUC had 26,000 personnel; UNTAC has 22,000. UNOSOM II is also the first operation authorized to use force under the provisions of Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

By unanimously adopting resolution 814 (1993), the Council endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation that UNOSOM II formally take over from the Unified Task Force (UNITAF) on the target date of 1 May, and authorized its mandate for an initial period through 31 October 1993.

UNOSOM was established by the Council on 24 April 1992 to monitor a cease-fire in Somalia and to escort humanitarian aid deliveries. Faced with the fact that the original, smaller UNOSOM contingent in the country's capital, Mogadishu, lacked the strength and mandate to stop widespread looting of relief convoys by armed factions and bandits, the Council on 3 December authorized Member States to send troops to escort the deliveries. Thousands of troops from the United States and other countries landed in Mogadishu on 9 December 1992 to launch "Operation Restore Hope", fanning out across famine-stricken areas of Somalia to accomplish their mission.

'First of its kind'

Like UNITAF forces, UNOSOM II will operate under the provisions of Chapter VII, a mandate not given initially to UNOSOM. Chapter VII outlines action with respect to threats to the peace and authorizes the Council to take such action involving the use of armed forces "as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security".

The Secretary-General reported *(S/25354)* on 3 March that UNOSOM II would be the "first operation of its kind to be authorized by the international community". The consequences of adopting resolution 814 were "far-reaching for political, legal and logistical reasons and would entail a major financial commitment", he said.

That sentiment was echoed by many delegates in Council debate. Among them, the United States said the Council had embarked on an unprecedented enterprise, aimed at the restoration of an entire country as a functioning member of the community of nations. The world community had been engaged to provide the most comprehensive assistance ever given to any country, with no models to guide its work.

New Zealand said that by empowering the Secretary-General and Member States to use all necessary means to establish a secure environment, UNOSOM II was a "landmark step" in the evolution of UN peace-keeping operations.

UN Photo [illegible]

The Security Council authorized the creation of UNOSOM II on 26 March. Above, Security Council President Terence Christopher O'Brien *(centre with gavel)* of New Zealand calls the meeting to order.

China said the decision to authorize UNOSOM II to use enforcement actions was unique in the history of UN peace-keeping. It was China's understanding that that was based on the unique needs of the situation in Somalia and should not constitute a precedent.

A smooth transition

Stating there was a "need for a prompt, smooth and phased transition" from UNITAF to UNOSOM II, the Council, in resolution 814, cited with regret the threat that "continuing incidents of violence" posed to the reconciliation process, the "continuing reports of widespread violations of international humanitarian law and the general absence of the rule of law in Somalia".

Defining UNOSOM II's mandate, the Council requested the Secretary-General to "provide humanitarian and other assistance to the people of Somalia in rehabilitating their political institutions and economy and promoting political settlement and national reconciliation".

The Council specifically requested UNOSOM II to assist in relief provision and economic rehabilitation, repatriation of refugees, removal of mines, and political reconciliation and re-establishment of national and regional institutions, including Somali police. The force was also to help develop appropriate public information activities and "create conditions under which Somali civil society may have a role, at every level, in the process of political reconciliation and in the formulation and realization of rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes".

Disarmament 'crucial'

Also by resolution 814, the Council emphasized the "crucial importance of disarmament" and demanded that all Somali parties comply fully with commitments they had undertaken at the Informal Preparatory Meeting on Somali Political Reconciliation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 4 to 15 January, in particular with their "Agreement on implementing the Cease-fire and on Modalities of Disarmament", reached on 8 January.

The continuing implementation of the arms embargo against Somalia, established in resolution 733 (1992), was demanded. All Somali parties were to "take all measures to ensure the safety of the personnel" of the UN and its agencies, as well as the staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations engaged in humanitarian and other assistance to the people of Somalia. Those responsible for breaches of international humanitarian law would be "held individually accountable".

The Secretary-General was requested to maintain the fund established in December 1992 pursuant to resolution 794 (1992) for the "additional purpose of receiving contributions for the maintenance of UNOSOM II forces" and for the establishment of Somali police.

The Council commended the efforts of Member States which had acted to "establish a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations in Somalia", as well as the efforts of the initial UNOSOM. UN agencies, the ICRC and other organizations were asked to continue their support to the Somali people, and their assistance was appreciated.

Four phases of UNOSOM II

A blueprint for the transition from UNITAF to UNOSOM II was contained in the Secretary-General's 3 March report which the Council approved. It discussed humanitarian activities, efforts toward political reconciliation, and the Secretary-General's views on the modalities for effecting the transition, among other things.

UNOSOM II's military operations were to be conducted in four phases: transition from UNITAF; consolidation and expansion of security; transfer to civilian institutions; and redeployment.

In Phase I, military support of relief activity and the disarming of factions would continue. In Phase II, operations would be extended into northern Somalia, based on the port cities of Berbera and Bossasso, then moved to Hargeisa and Garoe. It would conclude when UNOSOM II was operating effectively throughout Somalia and the border regions. In Phase III, military presence might be scaled down in the more stable areas to give way to Somali civilian authorities. When major UN military operations were no longer required, the Secretary-General would make recommendations to the Council under Phase IV to redeploy or reduce forces.

> **"The people of Somalia bear ultimate responsibility for reconstruction of their country"**

The military tasks of UNOSOM II were to: monitor that all factions cease hostilities and respect agreements; prevent any resumption of violence and, if necessary, take action against factions violating the cease-fire; maintain control of the organized factions' heavy weapons and seize small arms of unauthorized armed elements; continue the mine-clearing programme; assist in the repatriation of refugees; secure all ports, airports and lines of communications for the delivery of humanitarian aid; and protect personnel and installations of the UN and other organizations, and take forceful action, as may be required, against those attacking or threatening them.

It was estimated that a military component of 20,000 of all ranks was needed to carry out those tasks and an additional 8,000 personnel to provide logistical support. A civilian staff of approximately 2,800 was also needed.

Substantial strength

The strength of the forces had to be "substantial in the early stage in order to minimize the risk of any deterioration in the security conditions", the Secretary-General said. That "could be reduced progressively as the political process advances and the new police force becomes operational". It was pointed out that UNITAF, which had an initial strength of 37,000, was already deployed in 40 per cent of the territory; the somewhat smaller UNOSOM II force would be considered for deployment in the entire territory of Somalia.

That, however, should not cause unnecessary security risks. The large UNITAF force had been necessary to break down resistance and take control of the situation, the Secretary-General stated. It had been scaled down to approximately 28,400 forces ashore in early March. An auxiliary Somali police force and a tactical quick reaction force to be made available to the UNOSOM II Force Commander would enable a smaller force to police a bigger territory.

In a 16 January report *(S/25126)* to the Security Council, the United States stated that the "efforts of UNITAF to accomplish its objective have for the most part been welcomed by the Somali population", but on some occasions "segments of the Somali population have attempted to interfere with UNITAF forces". When no other recourse was possible, UNITAF forces "engaged in action against those elements", the United States stated.

As of 7 January, UNITAF included 21,000 United States military personnel deployed in support of "Operation Restore Hope", and 9,995 troops from other countries (in order of decreasing force strength): France, Italy, Morocco, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Belgium, Turkey, Botswana, Egypt, United Kingdom, Germany, Kuwait and New Zealand. The military component of

UNOSOM, which had been "frozen" with the deployment of UNITAF, had a strength of 715 of all ranks.

In a 31 March report *(A/47/916)*, the Secretary-General requested the General Assembly to approve an appropriation of $327.2 million to cover requirements for the first two months of UNOSOM II.

Commanders, envoys

Crucial in preparing the transition from UNITAF to UNOSOM II were military commanders and special envoys appointed by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

On 16 February, Lieutenant-General Cevik Bir of Turkey was named Force Commander of UNOSOM II. On 19 February, two more appointments were made: Major-General Thomas Montgomery of the United States as Deputy Force Commander and General James Cox of Canada as Chief of Staff.

Admiral Jonathan Trumbull Howe of the United States was appointed the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, effective 9 March, for three months, succeeding Ismat Kittani, who had been Special Representative since 30 October 1992. His mandate was to oversee the transition from UNITAF to UNOSOM II and continue coordinating humanitarian assistance and promoting the political reconciliation and reconstruction of Somalia.

Admiral Howe arrived in Addis Ababa on 17 March to participate in the Conference on National Reconciliation for Somalia, where he held a series of meetings with UNOSOM staff, representatives of regional organizations and Somalian non-governmental organizations and women's groups.

Other high-level appointments included Lansana Kouyate of Guinea, the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Somalia; and Hugh Cholmondeley, UN Relief and Rehabilitation Coordinator in Somalia, succeeding Philip Johnston, President of CARE.

AP/Wide World Photo

Representatives from 14 Somali factions, including General Mohamed Farah Aidid *(right)* and Abdulkarim Ahmed Ali of the United Somali Congress, participated in a January preparatory meeting for the Conference on National Reconciliation for Somalia.

Reconciliation process

At the centre of Somalia's problems was the absence of formal government, many agreed. The country was a "modern anomaly" having no effective means of governance, in effect a "non-State", in the words of Djibouti's representative in Council debate on 26 March.

To address that problem, the UN helped facilitate reconciliation meetings between Somali factions to encourage peace. Its importance was acknowledged in resolution 814, which stated that there was a "need for broad-based consultations and deliberations to achieve reconciliation, agreement on the setting up of transitional government institutions and consensus on basic principles and steps leading to the establishment of representative democratic institutions".

The Secretary-General and his Special Representative were encouraged to intensify their work at all levels to promote political settlement in Somalia, and the Council expressed its readiness to assist Somalis to hold free and fair elections.

The Council commended the progress made in the meetings of faction leaders and declared that the "people of Somalia bear the ultimate responsibility for national reconciliation and reconstruction of their own country".

The importance of political reconciliation was further stressed in the Secretary-General's 3 March report: "Ultimately, all the efforts being undertaken by the United Nations in Somalia are directed towards one central goal: to assist the people of Somalia to create and maintain order and new institutions for their own governance."

14-party talks

Representatives of 14 Somali political movements met for the first time in an "informal preparatory meeting" in Addis Ababa (4-15 January). Three agreements calling for an immediate cease-fire and disarmament were concluded and signed at the meeting. The movements agreed to hand over all heavy weaponry to a cease-fire monitoring group until a legitimate Somali Government could take over. An Ad Hoc Committee to prepare a national reconciliation conference, scheduled to begin on 15 March, was established.

The reconciliation process was repeatedly threatened by sporadic fighting in Somalia in early 1993. The Ad Hoc Committee could not meet in Addis Ababa on 22 January because one of the factions—the Somali National Alliance—refused to participate, alleging that two other factions—the Somali National Front and the Somali Patriotic Front—had violated the cease-fire agreement by attacking its forces in Kismayo.

When the Ad Hoc Committee did manage to hold its first meeting on 23 February in Mogadishu, it was interrupted by three days of rioting and fighting in the city. It did, however, agree on an agenda. Progress was reported in the following weeks on disarmament, as the factions submitted information on sites where they had stored weapons.

Agreement in Addis Ababa

A Conference on National Reconciliation for Somalia was held in Addis Ababa from 17 to 27 March, but was disrupted by renewed fighting in Kismayo. It was resumed after a fact-finding mission was deployed to that city, and on 27 March an agreement was signed among the leaders of 15 Somali factions, which the Secretary-General described as an "important achievement of the Somali people".

The agreement comprised four parts: disarmament and security; rehabilitation and reconstruction; restoration of property and settlement of disputes; and the establishment of a Transitional National Council vested with administrative and executive authority. The National Council was to consist of 74 members: three (two men and one woman) from each of the 18 regions of the country; one from each of the 15 political movements; and five from Mogadishu.

The signatories resolved to put an end to armed conflict and to reconcile their differences peacefully, and reaffirmed their commitment to hand over all their weapons and ammunition to UNITAF and UNOSOM II.

Stating that the deployment of UNOSOM II would "have to cover the whole country", the Secretary-General said that he was "aware of the very delicate question of the secession proclamation in the north". A deployment of UNOSOM troops in northern Somalia "would not prejudice in any way the decision of the Somali people on their national future".

A problem of a different nature was reported in the southernmost part of Somalia, on the border with Kenya, the home of over 300,000 Somali refugees. After 18 people, including several Kenyan guards, had been killed in cross-border raids by armed bandits searching for food and vehicles in refugee camps, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) started discussions with Kenyan officials on 20 January. UNHCR had asked Governments involved in "Operation Restore Hope" to speed up deployment of forces to the border areas in order to halt such raids.

UN Photo 159380/M. Grant

The level of starvation has fallen dramatically in many areas of Somalia.

From 'almost impossible' to 'very difficult'

The effect of the arrival of UNITAF forces on the humanitarian situation in Somalia was summed up by Special Representative Kittani in an 18 January statement: "We have moved from an almost impossible situation to a very difficult situation—which is a great improvement."

Aid delivery had "improved enormously" shortly after the arrival of the first United States troops in Mogadishu on 9 December 1992, Mr. Kittani said. When he arrived in Somalia in November, nothing had been moving, as the ports and the Mogadishu airport had been closed.

In January 1993, the Secretary-General reported that between 10 December and 20 January, 13 vessels of the World Food Programme (WFP) and other relief organizations carrying humanitarian supplies had berthed in Mogadishu port and some 40,000 tons of humanitarian aid supplies had been delivered. On 22 January, 3,000 tons of food arrived in Kismayo—the first shipment since the port was closed in September 1992. An increase in commercial activities was also reported, with markets functioning again and commercial vessels using the ports of Mogadishu and Kismayo.

The Secretary-General stated that the "level of malnutrition and death from starvation has fallen dramatically in many areas". However, the security situation for aid workers remained unstable, especially in rural areas and along the borders with Kenya and Ethiopia, as demonstrated by the murders in January and February of relief workers from ICRC and the UN Children's Fund. Channeling members of militias and armed gangs into useful jobs, in activities such as road repairs and sanitation, was "essential if Somalia is ever to become stable", the Secretary-General declared.

On 4 March, the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs appealed to the international community for $166.5 million to cover the relief and rehabilitation programme in Somalia in 1993. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Eliasson said that the major issues to be addressed by the relief programme were the repatriation of refugees and displaced persons, and the rebuilding of local institutions and the local economy.

A three-day Conference on Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia (Addis Ababa, 15-17 March) concluded with pledges totalling some $130 million towards the relief programme. Mr. Eliasson termed the response of donors "very positive" and said it was expected that further resources would be forthcoming. ■

ANGOLA

Immediate cease-fire demanded throughout the country

In the face of what UN officials described as a "very bleak" situation in Angola, the Security Council on 12 March strongly demanded an immediate cease-fire throughout the country and the resumption without delay or preconditions of a meaningful dialogue under UN auspices, aimed at setting a clear timetable for implementing the 31 May 1991 Peace Accords, signed in Bicesse, Portugal, outside of Lisbon.

In unanimously adopting resolution 811 (1993), the Council reaffirmed that it would hold responsible any party which refused to take part in such a dialogue and would consider all appropriate measures under the UN Charter to advance the implementation of the Accords.

The 15-member Council strongly condemned the "persistent violations" of the Accords by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), particularly its continued rejection of the results of the elections held on 29 and 30 September 1992, its failure to take part in the political institutions established on the basis of those elections and to engage in meaningful negotiations with the Government, its withdrawal from the new Angolan armed forces, its forcible seizure of provincial towns, and the resumption of hostilities.

The four-month electoral process was overseen by the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), which was originally established by the Council in December 1988 to oversee withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The UN has certified the elections as "generally free and fair".

AP/Wide World Photo

Angolan woman sweeps up wreckage of a hotel destroyed during clashes between UNITA and pro-Government civilians.

By resolution 811, the Secretary-General was invited to organize a meeting between the Government and UNITA to take place before 30 April, with a view to securing the Accords' full implementation. The meeting, at the highest possible level, would also consider the UN's future role in Angola.

The Council also condemned verbal and physical attacks against UNAVEM personnel in Angola and demanded that their safety and security be ensured. It also appealed to both parties to abide by international law, including the provision of unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance to the civilian population.

In the September elections, Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos, who heads the governing Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), received 49.57 per cent of the votes, while UNITA President Jonas Savimbi obtained 40.07 per cent. The remainder was divided among nine other candidates. (Angolan electoral rules require a 50 per cent majority for victory. Messrs. dos Santos and Savimbi, the two top contenders, should under those rules compete in a runoff.) In the parliamentary elections, the MPLA received 53.74 per cent of the total vote and UNITA, 34.1 per cent.

No real progress

On 5 March, Angolan Minister of External Relations Venancio de Moura had written *(S/25389)* to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, regrettably advising that, regardless of all efforts by UNAVEM II and the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Margaret J. Anstee, no real progress had been achieved in the Accords' implementation. The lack of progress was attributed to UNITA, which failed to attend the peace talks scheduled for 2 March in Addis Ababa, the Minister stated. (The first round of talks had been held in the Ethiopian capital from 27 to 30 January. According to Ms. Anstee, areas of disagreement had been whittled down to a few items.)

The Council was asked to compel UNITA to respect the electoral results, return to the Angolan armed forces, vacate all towns occupied by force, and "put an end to the hostilities unleashed by it even before confirmation of the electoral results" by Ms. Anstee on 17 October 1992.

On 1 March, Ms. Anstee said UNITA's failure to confirm a definite date for the peace talks, based on its security concerns for its leadership's safety, had led to the meeting's cancellation. "This result is a bitter deception for all of us engaged in the Angolan process, and especially for the Angolan people, who continue to be the victims of this savage war", she observed.

Appeal to Council

On 8 March, the President of the National Assembly of Angola appealed *(S/25390)* to the Council to release the Government from compliance with the "triple zero option" embodied in the Accords, which stipulated that no member of the "troika" of observers of the Angolan peace process—the United States, Portugal and the Russian Federation—could supply either party with arms or other war *matériel*. The appeal was made under Article 51 of the Charter, which provides that nothing shall impair the right of a Member State to self-defence in the event of an armed attack.

The Council was also asked to adopt effective international sanctions against UNITA if it did not stop the war immediately and if it failed to conclude, within a reasonable period, the unconditional withdrawal of its troops from all areas occupied after the elections, as well as its troops' total billeting and disarmament.

Debate

In debate, Yuliy M. Vorontsov of the Russian Federation said Angola had been virtually plunged into civil war again. UNITA's military actions attested to the stubborn unwillingness of the political opposition, headed by Mr. Savimbi, to accept its defeat in the elections. UNITA was attempting to nullify the democratically-made decision by military action and trying to assert its power by force of arms. "This opens sombre prospects of mass violence and terror" in Angola and threatened that country's territorial integrity.

> **“To all intents and purposes Angola has returned to civil war”**

Hervé Ladsous of France said the humanitarian situation in Angola had worsened. France keenly regretted that the second meeting in Addis Ababa could not take place because of the absence of a UNITA delegation. It appealed for a resumption of the dialogue and the honouring of all commitments made under the Accords.

Edward S. Walker of the United States said that over the past months, Angolans had been faced with a bitter war and a resulting humanitarian tragedy of growing proportions. Since January, maybe tens of thousands have died, and thousands more injured or displaced. A dialogue between the two parties was the only way out for Angola. The party which continued to violate the Accords, refused to engage in serious dialogue and appeared to rely on a military solution would find itself held responsible for a conflict which took Angola farther away from realizing its democratic aspirations.

Chen Jian of China said Angola was faced with the grave danger of an all-round civil war. There should be an immediate cease-fire and peace negotiations should be resumed with a view to achieving the Accords' comprehensive implementation. Lasting peace could be finally achieved only by Angolans themselves. It was short-sighted for any side to seek temporary victory on the battlefield.

Mandate extended

On 29 January, the Council extended UNAVEM II's mandate for three months, until 30 April.

In unanimously adopting resolution 804 (1993), the Council strongly condemned the persistent violations of the Accords, particularly the initial rejection by UNITA of the September 1992 election results, its withdrawal from the new Angolan armed forces, its forcible seizure of provincial capitals and municipalities, and the resumption of hostilities. Member States were urged to take steps to stop immediately any direct or indirect military or paramilitary interference from their territories. The Council also strongly condemned the violations of international humanitarian law, the extensive killings of civilians, and attacks against UNAVEM II personnel.

Three options

The Secretary-General outlined *(S/25140 and Add.1)* three options for UNAVEM II's future: to maintain the Mission at its current authorized strength of more than 700, half of them military observers at 67 different locations; to reduce provincial deployment to six locations which would require some 150 observers and civilian staff; or to confine its present deployment of about 70 in the capital city of Luanda, but with the capability to deploy one or two outstations. The Secretary-General preferred the third option.

"To all intents and purposes", he reported, "Angola has returned to civil war, and is probably in an even worse situation" than before the Accords were signed. Widespread fighting and the absence of government administration had led to hunger and the flight from towns. "An already serious humanitarian situation has become catastrophic in many areas", he said.

With the outbreak of violent and widespread hostilities and the total collapse of the joint monitoring mechanisms between the two parties to the Accords, UNAVEM II's original mandate had become less and less relevant. Even its role as mediator at the national and local levels had been increasingly limited by the deteriorating security situation, he declared.

The fundamental cause of the breakdown in the peace process was the failure, often deliberate, of both parties to implement fully the Accords' provisions relating to political, military and police matters or to make efforts to promote national reconciliation.

Humanitarian aid

UNAVEM II, in cooperation with the Angolan Government, on 31 March launched an operation to help some 4,000 civilian refugees reach Benguela and Lobito, where humanitarian aid was being provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

UNAVEM II and UN agencies in Angola responsible for operational programmes—UN Development Programme, WFP, UNICEF and UN High Commissioner for Refugees—had stepped up their combined efforts to enable help to reach the needy, despite the difficulties of access created by the war situation.

On 19 February, WFP said the killing and destruction in Angola had put the country on the verge of a total breakdown, with hunger and disease threatening 1.5 million people newly displaced by war, in addition to the 1.5 million who required assistance before the 1992 elections.

AP/Wide World Photo

UNAVEM II personnel help evacuate refugees from southern Angola.

War had disrupted work on the land throughout Angola, which would result in little harvest in April, WFP stated. In Luanda, there was scarcely any food available in the markets. Some cities, such as Uige and Negage, had become ghost towns because the inhabitants had fled to the countryside to escape attacks by UNITA.

Faced with reports of great suffering and destruction in Huambo and other areas, Special Representative Anstee on 10 February appealed to President dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi to agree to a truce so that humanitarian aid could be provided immediately, particularly in Huambo, where Government and UNITA forces had been engaged in battle for more than a month.

Other developments

In an 8 January letter *(S/25076)* to the Security Council President, the Secretary-General said the situation in Angola "has deteriorated severely" since the beginning of 1993. There had been outbreaks of heavy fighting in at least 10 provincial capitals and other centres of population, with each side accusing the other of initiating the hostilities. In almost all cases, the outcome had been the destruction of UNITA's premises and the capture of its personnel; in some cases, they had been killed. The Government had been unable to re-establish its administration in many rural areas. Some two thirds of the municipalities remained in UNITA's hands.

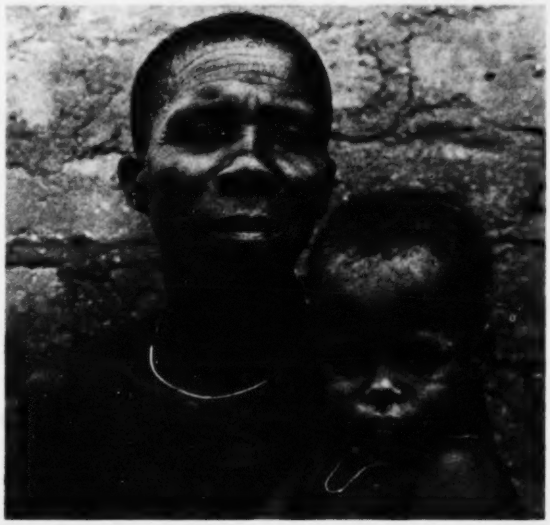
UNAVEM II personnel who were deployed in more than 60 different locations had been exposed to extreme danger as a result of those hostilities. It had been necessary to evacuate UNAVEM II teams from two provincial capitals.

In a 5 January joint communiqué issued in Addis Ababa, the Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, Salim Ahmed Salim, called for the Accords' implementation, respect for the democratic process and the immediate resumption of dialogue between the Government and UNITA in order to promote understanding and national reconciliation.

On 26 February, the Council endorsed a 22 February proposal by the Secretary-General to appoint Major-General Chris Abutu Garuba of Nigeria as UNAVEM II's Chief Military Observer. ■

Elections delayed, Timetables 'unrealistic'

UNHCR/A. Hollmann



After years of devastating civil war, Mozambicans long for a return to stability.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has stated that elections in Mozambique could not be held in October 1993 as originally scheduled, because many of the timetables established in the peace accord signed in Rome on 4 October 1992 had "proved to be unrealistic".

In a 2 April report to the Security Council *(S/25518)*, the Secretary-General said that he would continue his discussions with the parties—the Mozambican Government and the Resistência Nacional Moçambicana (RENAMO)—on new dates and would keep the Council informed about "this very important matter".

The General Peace Agreement—consisting of a complex series of interlinked agreements to be implemented in stages through coordinated actions of the two parties under UN verification—had created an extremely complicated peace process. Thus, delay in implementing one element of the Agreement affected the achievement of others, he said.

The Agreement, which sets out principles and modalities for achieving peace, calls on the UN to supervise its implementation.

Among the "positive developments" set out in the report were that the cease-fire had largely held and the parties had continued to exercise restraint. After many years of devastating conflict, there was a strongly felt need for peace, he said. Mozambicans longed for a return to the stability that would permit the rehabilitation and reconstruction of their society.

Another positive development was that Zimbabwean and Malawian troops would be permitted to stay in Mozambique to help keep open transport corridors running across the country to neighbouring land-locked nations.

'Continuing deep mistrust'

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali was concerned, however, over considerable delays which had occurred. Time had been lost in forging support inside the country to implement the Agreement.

Continuing deep mistrust, he said, had resulted in reluctance to begin assembly and demobilization of troops, and had contributed to the delay in deployment of UN military observers.

Another complication was RENAMO's insistence that its troops would not assemble unless 65 per cent of the UN armed components were deployed, ensuring stability in areas under RENAMO control. RENAMO's reluctance to allow timely investigation of alleged cease-fire violations and its insistence on keeping certain areas under its control obstructed the freedom of movement of people and goods foreseen in the Agreement, the Secretary-General said.

The UN Operation in Mozambique—known by its acronym ONUMOZ—was authorized by the Security Council on 16 December in resolution 797 (1992). An estimated 8,000 military and civilian personnel are to monitor withdrawal of foreign forces from the country and assist in the electoral process and humanitarian efforts. By mid-March 1993, some 154 military observers had been deployed. An Italian contingent of nearly 1,030 became fully operational on 1 April and an advance Bangladeshi contingent had also arrived. ONUMOZ's full deployment should be completed in May.

The military component of ONUMOZ is to be commanded by Major-General Lílio Gonçalves Rodrigues da Silva of Brazil. Its elements are from Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, India, Italy, Malaysia, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay and Zambia.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Mozambican Government announced on 15 March that the voluntary repatriation of 1.3 million Mozambican refugees would begin in April 1993. The operation would take at least three years and would be the "biggest ever undertaken" by UNHCR in Africa, with more than half a million Mozambicans expected to return in 1993 alone. ■

Voter registration a success

Cease-fire violations continue

The UN peace-keeping operation in Cambodia chalked up both successes and disappointments as it entered its second year, completing massive voter registration and repatriation processes despite ongoing cease-fire violations and demobilization problems.

Some 4.7 million persons were registered to vote during a three-month effort which began in October 1992, a "remarkable success" in the words of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. On 30 March, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced that the last of the Thai border camps, which over 18 years had sheltered nearly three quarters of a million Cambodian refugees, had been closed.

Meanwhile, the refusal of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK) to participate fully in phase II of the peace process had made it impossible, the Secretary-General reported, to carry out the cantonment, disarmament and demobilization of the factions' armed forces, as required by the October 1991 Paris Agreements.

And reports of a growing climate of violence spawned from politically motivated acts of intimidation clouded continuing efforts to secure a peaceful settlement.

The Security Council on 8 March endorsed the decision of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC) that the election for a constituent assembly should be held from 23 to 27 May, and urged all Cambodian parties to cooperate fully with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) towards that end.

The Council has declared the SNC "the unique legitimate body and source of authority in which, throughout the transition period, the sovereignty, independence and unity of Cambodia are enshrined".

UN Photo 159484/J. Bleibtreu

Repatriated Cambodian refugees helped to make the voter registration drive a "remarkable success".

In unanimously adopting resolution 810 (1993), the Council called on UNTAC to continue to make every effort to create and maintain a neutral political environment conducive to the holding of free and fair elections.

All Cambodian parties were urged to help create in the minds of their followers tolerance for peaceful political competition and "to ensure adherence to the code of conduct during the forthcoming political campaign", which was to begin on 7 April. They were particularly urged to take all measures to ensure freedom of speech, assembly and movement, as well as fair access to the media for all registered political parties during the electoral campaign, and to reassure Cambodians that the balloting would be secret.

> "Some 4.7 million persons were registered to vote in the May elections"

The Council demanded that all Cambodian parties end all acts of violence and threats committed on political or ethnic grounds. It further demanded that those parties safeguard the lives and security of UNTAC personnel throughout Cambodia, and desist from all threats or intimidation against them.

Expressing its readiness to endorse the results of the election, provided that the UN certified it as free and fair, the Council called on all parties to abide by their commitment under the Paris Agreements.

Under the Agreements, Cambodians have the right to determine their own political future through free and fair election of a constituent assembly, which will then draft and approve a new Cambodian constitution and transform itself into a legislative assembly that will create a new government.

UNTAC—currently the third largest peace-keeping operation in UN history, following those for Somalia and the Congo—was established on 28 February 1992. As of 31 January, there were 20,874 international UNTAC staff members—military and civilian—from more than 100 countries serving throughout Cambodia's 21 provinces. On 24 February, it was reported that some 28 military and civilian personnel had died while serving with UNTAC, and 32 UNTAC members had suffered injuries as a result either of mine explosions or of hostile action by various Cambodian political parties.

Reports reviewed

The Council in March reviewed two progress reports of the Secretary-General on UNTAC.

A 25 January report *(S/25124)* covering UNTAC activities through 10 January stated that the voter registration drive UNTAC had begun in October 1992 had been a "remarkable success", with some 4.7 million voters registered. UNTAC would continue to make every effort to prepare for the holding of free and fair elections by May in all areas of Cambodia to which it had access. There had been considerable success in the repatriation process as well, the Secretary-General said.

During phase I of the peace process, the UN provided its good offices to facilitate the observance of the cease-fire by the parties. Phase II began on 13 June 1992.

The continuing existence of large and sometimes undisciplined armies, as well as attempts to improve their positions on the ground, had had an adverse impact on the security situation in Cambodia, the Secretary-General reported. Attacks on UNTAC personnel and helicopters had occurred, and there was a growing climate of violence resulting from politically motivated acts of intimidation.

The best way of overcoming the difficulties, he went on, was for all parties to remain actively involved in the peace process and engage in constructive dialogue within the SNC. The holding of a presidential election, in conjunction with constituent assembly elections, could contribute to national reconciliation and provide an essential element of stability during the rest of the transition period.

Serious problems

In the second report *(S/25289)* of 13 February, the Secretary-General stated that the peace process continued to encounter serious problems. SNC Chairman Prince Norodom Sihanouk had stated that he was unwilling to hold the presidential election before or at the same time as the constituent assembly elections. He wanted to wait for the adoption of a new constitution and hold the presidential election after such matters as the President's powers and term of office were decided. Therefore, preparations for such an election had been put on hold.

On the security front, the report said that a disturbing development had been the launching of military attacks by the Cambodian People's Armed Forces—the army of the Party of the State of Cambodia (SOC)—against the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK)—the armed forces of the PDK—in several districts. Those attacks went beyond the SOC's right to defend itself against any hostile action by the PDK.

In accordance with Council resolution 792 (1992) of 30 November, UNTAC had taken measures to prevent the supply of petroleum products to areas controlled by the PDK, since it had failed to comply with the military provisions of the Paris Agreements.

UNTAC was also doing its best to protect the natural resources of Cambodia, particularly timber, minerals and gems, and had appealed to neighbouring countries to assist in the implementation of the Council's moratorium on the sale of Cambodian timber and the export of gems. Despite UNTAC border controls to monitor the moratorium, numerous and large-scale violations by land and sea

UN Photo 159484/J. Bleibtreu

Weapons turned in by soldiers of one Cambodian faction stand sentry at a cantonment ceremony during Phase II of the peace process.

continued. The PDK had refused to allow checkpoints to be established within its controlled zone, thus defeating UNTAC's efforts to strengthen monitoring.

Despite PDK's uncooperative attitude, the Secretary-General stated, he thought it important to resist any pressure to exclude PDK representatives from the SNC. The framework of the Paris Agreements, despite the damage done by the failure of some signatories to fulfil their obligations, still offered the best hope for a solution to the problem of Cambodia.

UN Photo 159491/J. Bleibtreu

By January, UNTAC personnel had trained more than 1,000 specialists in demining.

Refusal

The Secretary-General told the press in Tokyo on 18 February that one of the parties—the Khmer Rouge—still refused to participate in the elections. They did not represent more than 10 per cent of the population and the territory they occupied was not more than 13 or 14 per cent. The UN hoped to convince the Khmer Rouge that it was "in their interest, in the interest of peace, in the interest of the Cambodian people" to participate in the elections. However, he said, the elections would be held even without their participation.

The UN would have a very heavy military presence when the balloting took place. It had "the capacity to overcome difficulty in case of any hostility from the Khmer Rouge".

The UN had trained more than 1,000 specialists "to take the mines out of the roads and out of the fields", he said. Millions of mines remain scattered across Cambodia; nearly 7,000 had been cleared from over a million square metres, an UNTAC spokesman said on 26 January. In addition, almost 4,000 unexploded ordnance had been destroyed.

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi said at a 9 March SNC meeting in Phnom Penh that, although fighting in Cambodia had decreased recently, much remained to be done for the creation of a neutral political environment in preparation for the elections. He stressed the importance of a political environment in which "clashes" among the 20 Cambodian parties were confined to "ideas and words". Physical violence should have no place at all in a civilized political campaign, he stated.

Mr. Akashi observed that considerable restrictions on freedom of expression and movement remained in many areas of Cambodia. He informed the SNC of his proposal to the UN Centre for Human Rights that it assume an operational presence in Cambodia later this year.

At a press conference following the meeting, Mr. Akashi said he had also discussed with the SNC a list of activities forbidden during the campaign, including public opinion polls. On the preservation of Cambodia's natural resources, he said he had proposed a 30 per cent reduction in the volume of sawed timber as compared to 1991, a proposal which two of the Cambodian parties had accepted. On the exploitation and export of minerals and gems, the SNC had adopted a global moratorium, with emphasis on commercial companies using large equipment.

On 7 January, Mr. Akashi signed a directive establishing procedures for the prosecution of persons responsible for human rights violations. The directive empowered UNTAC to indict individuals and prosecute cases using the legal system of the appropriate existing administrative structure.

On 12 January, a UN spokesman reported that UNTAC had made the first arrest of a member of the Phnom Penh Government party for his "alleged involvement" in an attack on an opposition party member. That action was taken under the directive signed by Mr. Akashi. The arrested person would face prosecution by a UN magistrate. On 28 January, the UNTAC prosecutor brought before the Phnom Penh Court an NADK soldier arrested in connection with the killing of 15 people in a village on 27 December 1992.

An 'appalling assault'

Thirty-five Vietnamese-speaking fishermen, women and children on Tonle Sap Lake near the provincial capital of Siem Reap were killed and 24 others injured on 10 March when an unidentified armed group attacked a floating village with AK-47 rifles, machine guns and rocket launchers, an UNTAC spokesman said on 16 March.

In a statement, Mr. Akashi called the act "appalling" and "most heinous", and said it was the latest in a series of bloody and murderous assaults by bands of armed men against unarmed civilians, often in their sleep. UNTAC would "strongly" press local authorities to track down the perpetrators and bring the guilty parties to justice. UNTAC would assist the authorities in that regard.

Successes & disappointments

On 26 March, UNTAC condemned "in the strongest possible terms" the killing on 24 March of eight ethnic Vietnamese boat people in the Kompong Chhnang Province by NADK. UNTAC said the attack involved 10 to 20 assailants.

Establish the facts

Mr. Akashi said UNTAC would continue its efforts to establish the facts of foreign presence in the country. The distinction between foreign forces, as provided for in the Paris Agreements, and foreign residents and immigrants was clear. People born in Cambodia of foreign descent fell into a separate category. UNTAC condemned any effort by any Cambodian party to blur the distinction between those categories. Any party which advocated violence against individuals on the basis of their ethnic background should also be condemned. UNTAC called on all Cambodian parties to unite in condemning "this horrible act and those who committed it", Mr. Akashi concluded.

On 31 March, UNTAC reported that large numbers of ethnic Vietnamese were moving south from Tonle Sap Lake towards Viet Nam; as many as 7,000 were seen heading towards the Vietnamese border by boat.

UNTAC had been watching the movement with considerable concern and had urged the existing administrative structures to take all steps to maintain law and order. Many of the ethnic Vietnamese had been living in Cambodia for generations and had probably been registered to vote.

An UNTAC spokesman on 1 February reported the "largest cease-fire violation" since UNTAC began its operation on 15 March 1992, as the Cambodian People's Armed Forces (CPAF) launched a series of attacks on the NADK in several provinces, focussing on two broad areas—one in Battambang province and another in Kompong Thom and Preah Vihear provinces.

In a 15 January statement *(S/25133)* addressed to the Security Council President, the Foreign Ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) expressed concern over the intensified political harassment and even assassinations perpetrated against personalities and workers of various political parties in Cambodia. ASEAN members are Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Expressing "grave concern" over the recent spate of killings of residents of Vietnamese descent, the members warned that that could "eventually lead to renewed large-scale fighting in Cambodia". They called on all Cambodian parties to cooperate with UNTAC and contribute to ensure a peaceful and neutral political environment so that there could be "free and fair elections" as stipulated in the Paris Agreements.

Special Representative Akashi on 25 February expressed disappointment at the performance of donors in disbursing their pledges to Cambodia. Some $880 million had been pledged in Tokyo on 22 June 1992 at the Ministerial Conference on the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Cambodia.

Last camp closed

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata on 30 March officially closed Site 2—the last of seven camps on the Thai border for Cambodian refugees—a year after UNHCR had begun a voluntary repatriation programme for some 375,000 Cambodians. The camp held some 218,000 refugees and was the largest Cambodian community outside Phnom Penh.

At ceremonies at Site 2, Mrs. Ogata thanked Thailand for providing sanctuary to more than 700,000 Cambodians over the past 18 years of war and exile, and said that UNHCR would accompany the returnees on their way home. More than 236,000 Cambodians from the Thai camps have been resettled outside Cambodia, mainly in the United States, Canada and Australia, over the past 18 years.

"We will be there to help you in the first steps of your new life in Cambodia", Mrs. Ogata stated, referring to quick impact projects designed to ease the return of the refugees.

The repatriation operation was expected to be completed by mid-April. It was regarded, along with the registration of 4.75 million voters, as a main success in the fulfilment of the Paris Agreements. With respect to the resettlement sites, all four parties to the Paris Agreements have scrupulously respected the freedom of choice of the returnees. ■

UN Photo 159486/J. Bleibtreu

Over the past year, the UNHCR has repatriated some 375,000 Cambodian refugees.

UN to verify 1994 elections in El Salvador

Truth Commission report issued

UN Photo 182680/M. Tzovaras

The Commission on the Truth, which investigated acts of violence committed during El Salvador's 12-year civil war, issued its report on 15 March.

The Security Council on 9 February welcomed with satisfaction El Salvador's request that the UN verify the general elections in that country in March 1994.

However, in a statement issued following consultations *(S/25257)*, it expressed concern that the Government of El Salvador had yet to comply fully with recommendations concerning the purification of its armed forces and that the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) had not completed the destruction of its weapons by the agreed deadline and was therefore not yet in full compliance with the peace agreements.

Stressing the solemn nature of the undertakings made by the parties, the Council strongly urged them to persist in their determination to complete the process of bringing peace and national reconciliation to El Salvador and continue cooperating with the Secretary-General's efforts to ensure full implementation of those agreements.

The Council also welcomed the important progress made thus far in the implementation of the peace process in El Salvador, emphasizing the formal end to the 12-year armed conflict on 15 December 1992.

In a 26 January letter, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali informed the Council of El Salvador's request for verification of elections which, he believed, would be the "first to take place after the end of the conflict" and should constitute the "logical culmination of the entire peace process".

Personnel needed for the verification exercise, the Secretary-General added, would "be phased in as required by the electoral process and their assignment would end immediately after the elections".

Purification of armed forces

Details on the implementation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Commission on purification of the Armed Forces in El Salvador, which concerned 103 officers, were reported to the Security Council by the Secretary-General on 7 January *(S/25078)*.

One officer, Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated, was "no longer a serving member of the Armed Forces". Of the remaining 102, it had been recommended that 26 should be transferred to other functions and 76 be discharged.

Measures taken with regard to 87 officers either complied fully with

Rebuilding on lessons of past

Commission recommendations or were "satisfactory in the circumstances". However, Mr. Boutros-Ghali concluded that the decisions to appoint seven officers as military attachés and defer action on eight others were "not in compliance with the Commission's recommendations".

Since his mandate was to "seek full compliance by each side with all the commitments" under the peace accords, the Secretary-General said he had asked El Salvador President Alfredo Cristiani to "take early action to regularize the position of the 15 officers".

UN Photo/159527/S. Bleibtreu

ONUSAL observers helped foster an integrated approach to peace-keeping, peacemaking and peace-building.

Commission on the Truth report

On 15 March, a 210-page report on the worst and most widespread human rights violations in El Salvador between 1980 and July 1991 was made public at UN Headquarters by the three-member Commission on the Truth. That body was officially installed in July 1992 to investigate acts of violence committed by both sides during the conflict, which claimed an estimated 75,000 lives and resulted in more than a million refugees.

Introducing the report, Commission Chairman Belisario Betancur, former President of Colombia, told correspondents that "violence was a flame which had ravaged the roots of El Salvador" and "turned everything into destruction and death". The Commission hoped, however, that the lessons of the past would help Salvadorians to "build a new country and society", he added.

The other Commission members are Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart, former Venezuelan Foreign Minister, and Thomas Buergenthal, an American law professor.

Produced in Spanish, the report names the institutions and individuals responsible for serious human rights abuses. It calls for their immediate removal from their present posts and recommends that they be "barred from holding public office for 10 years".

Individuals referred to include former Minister of Defence, General Rene Emilio Ponce (who resigned on 12 March), Vice-Minister General Orlando Zepeda, and other prominent members of the Salvadorian Army.

The report states that in November 1989 the above mentioned officers ordered the murder of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her young daughter.

Some former FMLN leaders were deemed responsible for the assassination of more than 11 civilian mayors and should not be allowed to hold public office for a decade, the Commission recommended.

The document also contains wide-ranging recommendations aimed at reforming the justice system and the Armed Forces, as well as promoting human rights, democracy, the rule of law and national reconciliation.

Facing the truth

To overcome the "trauma of the war", the Salvadorians had to go through the "catharsis of facing the truth", Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali stated on 15 March at the report presentation ceremony. That had been the philosophy underlying the decision to establish the Commission and its mandate.

"There can be no reconciliation without the public knowledge of the truth", Mr. Boutros-Ghali stressed. "Let us not forget that catharsis, in its original meaning in the Greek, contains the idea of purification, and is associated with spiritual renewal and release of tension."

El Salvador had made "great strides" and its President deserved the "encouragement of the international community in his efforts", the Secretary-General continued. But he was also proud of the UN role, which epitomized the Organization's activity through an "integrated approach to peacemaking, peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building".

Although the task of reunification of Salvadorian society was "far from over", the implementation of the peace accords stood out "in many ways as a shining example", Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated. "The historic occasion which brings us together here today is a further giant step towards national reconciliation in El Salvador. Now that the truth has been brought to light, the people of El Salvador can contemplate forgiveness."

To prevent violence

In welcoming the Commission report and its recommendations, the Security Council on 18 March noted that they were intended to "prevent the repetition of the acts of violence", as well as to "create confidence in the positive changes caused by the peace process and stimulate national reconciliation".

In a statement read by Council President Terence Christopher O'Brien of New Zealand, the body acknowledged the "sense of responsibility and cooperation" demonstrated by the Government and the FMLN to apply fully the peace accords.

At the same time, the Council underlined the need for the parties to comply with the Commission's recommendations, "as well as all other obligations which remain to be implemented". It called upon Salvadorian society to continue acting with responsibility, in order to contribute to the consolidation of internal peace and the maintenance of a "genuine and lasting atmosphere of national harmony".

Concern over amnesty law

In a 24 March statement, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali expressed concern over the amnesty law adopted by the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador on 20 March for people implicated in atrocities during the civil war.

Although an internal matter, the amnesty still related to the report of the Commission, which was, and remains, an integral part of El Salvador's peace settlement, Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated.

In his view, it would have been better if the amnesty had been taken "after a broad degree of national consensus had been created in favour of it". Since both parties formally undertook to carry out the Commission's recommendations, it was therefore "incumbent on both of them to use their best endeavours to ensure that no action is taken which is inconsistent" with those recommendations.

The Secretary-General attached importance to the "very early completion of action" to implement the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Commission on the purification of the Armed Forces—a "matter on which he is obliged to report further to the Security Council".

The European Community on 25 March also expressed concern *(S/25484)* over the amnesty's approval "before the full implementation of the Ad Hoc Commission's recommendations and before putting into effect the conclusions of the Commission on the Truth".

Its member States emphasized that such a step "should not prejudice the full implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on the Truth".

Other developments

The General Assembly on 16 March appropriated $17.2 million for the financing of the UN Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) for the period from 1 December 1992 to 31 May 1993. Established by the Security Council on 20 May 1991 to monitor all agreements concluded between the Government and the FMLN, ONUSAL is expected to complete its work by mid-1994.

Augusto Ramírez Ocampo, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia and a former Assistant Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), was appointed as the Secretary-General's Special Representative in El Salvador and Chief of Mission of ONUSAL, effective 1 April.

In another development, some 2,400 Guatemalan refugees ended 12 years of exile in Mexico, as they began on 20 January a 900-kilometre journey home, under the auspices of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The repatriation was a "giant step towards resolving refugee problems in Central America", said High Commissioner Sadako Ogata. ■

Integration efforts strengthened

A new mechanism—the Central American Integration System (SICA), established under the Tegucigalpa Protocol of 13 December 1991—to strengthen integration in the region was launched on 1 February. The Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama took that decision in adopting the Panama Declaration at the thirteenth summit meeting of Presidents of the Central American isthmus (9-11 December 1992, Panama City).

Attending as observers were the Prime Minister of Belize and the Vice-President of the Dominican Republic.

SICA is to elaborate general guidelines and strategies for regional development and coordinate policies in such fields as economy, external trade, democratization, health and agriculture.

The Declaration, among other things, states that the primary challenges for Central America are the "improvement of democracy, the consolidation of peace, access to international markets on equitable conditions and sustainable development with social justice". To meet those challenges, the region needs a "regional institutional framework and strategies for integrated development, encompassing the agricultural sector as the linchpin of regional economic revitalization", it was stated.

The Presidents also reaffirmed their commitment to make every possible effort to prevent their countries from becoming bases for drug trafficking, "resulting in destabilizing and destructive effects for society and violations of fundamental human rights".

A 'step towards democracy'

Agreement to deploy a joint United Nations/Organization of American States (OAS) mission to Haiti was announced on 9 February. The new International Civilian Mission is to verify Haiti's respect for human rights, with special emphasis on the right to life, personal integrity, security and liberty, and freedoms of expression and association.

In making the announcement at UN Headquarters, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Haiti, Dante Caputo—who is also the Special Envoy of OAS Secretary-General João Baena Soares—said the decision marked the "first effective step towards the global solution of the crisis and the full restoration of democracy".

UN Photo 182548/M. Tzovaras

Dante Caputo, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Haiti.

On 13 February, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali dispatched to Haiti an advance team, together with a survey group, that included field operations and security personnel, to make the necessary preparations for the observers' deployment.

He also sent three human rights experts who, after visiting Haiti from 15 to 22 February to determine how best the Mission's tasks should be undertaken, issued a 21-page report.

100 observers deployed

By 21 March, some 100 OAS observers had arrived in Haiti and their deployment in the provinces had started. Michael Moller, head of the UN advance team, said on 16 March that the Mission had had a "sobering and calming effect" in the areas of deployment, tensions had subsided, and the presence of armed military had declined.

Mr. Caputo had been holding consultations on finding a political solution to the Haitian crisis since the beginning of March. The immediate objective was to achieve agreement on three main issues: the return of exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide; the appointment of a Prime Minister to head a government of national concord; and the question of amnesty.

Other issues to be resolved included the question of the embargo, technical assistance for Haiti's economic and institutional reconstruction, the nature and duration of the international presence in Haiti, as well as international guarantees to ensure compliance with the agreements.

The Secretary-General, in his 24 March report on "The Situation of Democracy and Human Rights in Haiti" *(A/47/908)*, recommended that the General Assembly establish the UN component of the Mission.

The observers, he stated, would review communications on alleged human rights violations, enjoy entire freedom of movement within Haitian territory, conduct wide-ranging interviews, make recommendations and verify their follow-up, undertake a public information and education campaign on human rights, and use the media to fulfil its mandate.

Difficulties ahead

Although aware of the difficulties that lay ahead, Mr. Boutros-Ghali believed that the mission's "success and continuity" depended not only on "adherence to the texts agreed upon, but, in particular, on the determination of parties to cooperate fully" in carrying out the Mission's objectives.

The request to deploy an international civilian mission to Haiti and establish a "process of dialogue" among the Haitian parties was sent to the Secretary-General by President Aristide on 8 January.

Such a dialogue, President Aristide believed, would help reach "agreements for the solution of the political crisis" and contribute to the "full restoration of democratic order", including his return to power. Once the mission was deployed "throughout Haiti and the Special Envoy certified that tangible progress was being made" with regard to respect for human rights and in resolving the political crisis, Mr. Aristide would ask the international community to "lift gradually the economic measures against his country". At the same time, he would try to mobilize international financial assistance for rebuilding Haiti's economy.

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali agreed to UN participation in the mission in his 18 January reply to President Aristide, subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

The terms of the agreement on the joint UN/OAS mission, as well as its mandate, were subsequently incorporated in an exchange of letters between Haiti's de facto Prime Minister Marc Bazin and Mr. Caputo on 9 February. ■

Challenge to Council resolutions continues

UNIKOM militarized, enlarged after raids

UN Photo 158411/J. Isaac

UNIKOM personnel will now be armed, troop strength will increase tenfold to 3,600, in the wake of Iraqi challenges to UN authority.

The Security Council on 5 February responded to continuous Iraqi challenges to the UN-imposed cease-fire agreement by authorizing an enlarged and militarized UN presence in the region.

In adopting resolution 806 (1993), the Council transformed the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) from an unarmed observer contingent into an armed force capable of preventing small-scale violations of the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between Iraq and Kuwait. It also authorized an increase in personnel from 350 to some 3,600.

The Council acted following a series of what were widely seen as provocative Iraqi actions, in violation of UN resolutions, which included dismantling and removal of equipment from a facility in the DMZ, attempting to ban UN inspection flights over its territory and threatening coalition flight operations that were intended to monitor Iraqi compliance. These actions resulted in a series of airstrikes by coalition forces against Iraqi military targets in January.

And, despite the Council action, the situation continued through the end of March.

Iraq was advised on 26 March that it remained in violation of the full range of Council resolutions and was warned that any provocative actions would receive a firm response from coalition forces which had participated in the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

The warning was conveyed to Iraq's Permanent Representative to the UN, Nizar Hamdoon, by four permanent Council members—France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In a statement, they declared they were committed to "the preservation of the territorial integrity of Iraq" and to "easing the suffering of the civilian population", through the implementation of Council resolutions 706 (1991) and 712 (1991). They emphasized that it was "in Iraq's own interest" to comply fully with all relevant Council resolutions and stressed their determination to ensure such compliance.

Resolution 706 stipulates the terms for the limited sale of Iraqi oil and oil products, so that essential civilian needs could be met, under strict conditions and with close UN monitoring. The sum to be produced by Iraq's limited oil exports was not to exceed $1.6 billion. Resolution 712 was adopted to implement resolution 706.

UNIKOM strengthened

Sanctions continued

On 29 March, and earlier on 25 January, the Security Council had taken decisions to continue the sanctions regime against Iraq.

The new United States Permanent Representative to the UN, Madeleine Albright, told the press that "among Iraq's many unfulfilled obligations" was that it had not allowed any long-term monitoring by UN agencies of its weapons programmes. It had also not ceased the massive repression of its civilian population and had not accepted the UN-demarcated boundary between Iraq and Kuwait, she said.

On 13 February, Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf registered *(S/25298)* Iraq's "protest and remonstrance" against the Sanctions Committee's working procedures. The Committee, he maintained, had "revealed a transparent insistence on continuing to inflict damage on the Iraqi people and deprive it of the most elementary requirements for its daily life".

Most of the requests submitted to the Committee, he stated, were rejected by the United States and the United Kingdom, although they were made in connection with "basic requirements of daily life for the Iraqi people".

Council demands, condemns

In an 8 January statement, the Council had demanded that Iraq not interfere with planned UN flights into the country and warned Iraq of serious consequences for failure to comply with its obligations.

The Council said it was deeply disturbed by Iraq's recent declaration to the UN that it would not allow the UN to transport its personnel into the country using its own aircraft.

Iraqi restrictions, it went on, would seriously impede the activities of the Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and UNIKOM, and constituted an unacceptable and material breach of relevant provisions of resolution 687 (1991), as well as other UN resolutions and agreements.

Resolution 687, adopted on 3 April 1991, set detailed conditions for a formal cease-fire ending the hostilities resulting from Iraq's August 1991 occupation of Kuwait and provided conditions essential to the restoration of peace and security in the region. Prime among those conditions was total Iraqi compliance with UN decisions, including those which obliged Iraq to submit to on-site inspections of designated locations.

The situation escalates

Special Commission spokesman Tim Trevan said on 8 January that the Iraqi decision to ban the use of UN aircraft in the country was "a very serious violation", which would "seriously hinder" UN operations in Iraq. If the Commission wished to use aircraft, Iraq said, it "must use Iraqi-chartered aircraft and not United Nations aircraft"; otherwise, its members should travel by land.

UN Photo 182615/M. Grant

Tim Trevan, Spokesman for the Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament.

On 9 January, Iraq said *(S/25086)* its ban on foreign aircraft was a "temporary decision" dictated by "United States threats to Iraq".

On 10 January, the Secretary-General reported *(S/25085)* that a party of about 200 Iraqis forced its way into six ammunition bunkers located in a former Iraqi naval base at Umm Qasr, on Kuwaiti territory, and took most of their contents. UNIKOM staff had tried but was unable to prevent the Iraqi action. The Iraqis also dismantled prefabricated buildings and removed items from its former naval base, also on Kuwaiti territory.

UNIKOM had lodged a protest with the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. The Secretary-General said that with the ban against UN aircraft, doubt was cast on Iraq's continued willingness to cooperate with UNIKOM and abide by the commitments it had undertaken.

'Clear-cut defiance'

In an 11 January statement by Council President Yoshio Hatano of Japan, the body said it was deeply concerned at the incidents reported in the Secretary-General's 10 January report. It condemned the removal from Kuwait of equipment, particularly anti-ship missiles and other military equipment, in spite of UNIKOM objections.

Iraq's action directly challenged UNIKOM's authority and amounted to its "clear-cut defiance" of the Council. The Council demanded the return of the equipment and condemned further Iraqi intrusions into the Kuwaiti side of the DMZ.

On 19 January, the Secretary-General reported *(S/25085/Add.1)* that under UNIKOM supervision, Iraq had withdrawn the six police posts located on Kuwaiti territory. As of 13 January, the retrieval of Iraqi assets from the territory had ceased.

On 15 January, Iraq informed the Council that as of 13 January it had suspended removal of its property from Umm Qasr and the DMZ. On 16 January, Iraq said *(S/25111)* it had allowed UN aircraft to fly to Iraq on a "case-by-case basis". Regarding UN flights, Iraq said it would not assume responsibility for the safety of any aircraft within its airspace, because of the "military aggression carried out by United States, United Kingdom and French fighter planes" to which Iraq was being subjected.

Iraq said it would ensure the safety of UN aircraft if they entered Iraqi airspace from the west using the direct flight route between Amman (or any other point in Jordan) and Habbaniyah.

Raids against Iraq

According to a United States official, American and British bombers on 13 January carried out a raid against Iraqi military targets. On 14 January, the Secretary-General told the press in Paris that the raid was in accordance with a mandate under Council resolution 687 and in conformity with Council resolutions and the Charter. The reason for the raid was Iraq's violation of resolution 687. It was in the Iraqis' interest, he stressed, to implement UN resolutions to bring the embargo and the situation they were in to an end. Iraq, he stated, had caused the UN one problem after another, all of which he had endeavoured to solve in a peaceful manner.

In a 19 January statement *(S/25128)*, Iraq's Revolution Command Council said Iraq would cease fire as of 20 January, "except in the event of firing by the other party". That was being done to "afford the new United States Administration an opportunity to consider the ban on Iraqi aviation in areas of northern and southern Iraq, so that it may verify . . . that the decision of the previous Administration and its associates to impose the ban was a unilateral and unwarranted one". The ban was aimed at "achieving particular political objectives that have no connection" with UN resolutions. Iraq would cease fire also "to allow the scope for the new Administration to establish a constructive dialogue".

The Secretary-General on 20 January welcomed the Iraqi statement as to its intention to cease fire. He strongly hoped that that development, together with Iraq's full compliance with all Council resolutions, would decrease tension in the area.

A UN official on 21 January said that a UN plane carrying 52 UN personnel had landed in Iraq that day. Another UN flight had arrived in Baghdad on 22 January with 19 passengers. Two more flights arrived in Iraq in the following week.

On 22 January, the Council informally discussed an offer by the Holy See, at Iraq's request, to promote a dialogue between the Council and Iraq.

UNIKOM: An armed force

In transforming UNIKOM to an armed force through resolution 806, the Council authorized the Mission to prevent or redress small-scale violations of the DMZ, violations of the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait, and problems that might arise from the presence of Iraqi installations and its citizens and their assets in the DMZ on the Kuwaiti side of the newly demarcated boundary.

In the first phase, the military observers would be retained and reinforced by one mechanized infantry battalion.

Boundary Commission

The UN Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission, at its ninth session (Geneva, 15-18 March), said that it viewed navigational access for both Iraq and Kuwait to various parts of their respective territories bordering the demarcated boundary between them as important "for ensuring an equitable character and for promoting stability and peace and security along the border".

The Commission reviewed the

UN Photo 158399/J. Isaac

Border surveillance is an important task of UNIKOM.

results of the aerial photography conducted in February in preparation for additional large-scale mapping and for determination of the low-water springs for demarcation purposes.

On 19 March, Kuwait strongly regretted *(S/25446)* Iraq's non-participation in the Commission meeting which, it said, "clearly portrays Iraq's ill-intention" towards complying with Council resolutions.

Inspections

The fifteenth and sixteenth in a series of inspections of Iraq's ballistic missile capabilities took place from 12 to 23 February and from 22 to 23 February, respectively. Fourteen earlier inspections had been carried out between 30 June 1991 and 30 October 1992.

The main objectives of the fifteenth team were to conduct inspections at a number of undeclared sites, assess the capabilities of certain facilities and, as part of efforts to uncover Iraq's supplier network, make thorough inventories of certain equipment and raw materials used in that country's ballistic missile programmes. In doing so, it inspected some 356 buildings and structures.

The sixteenth inspection mission was to act on information received that specific items related to ballistic missiles and prohibited under resolution 687 were present at sites to the west of Baghdad. Three undeclared sites were inspected. Simultaneously, aerial surveillance was conducted by Special Commission helicopters and high-altitude surveillance aircraft. No proscribed items or activities were observed.

The seventeenth and eighteenth inspections of Iraq's nuclear capabilities took place from 25 to 31 January and from 3 to 11 March, respectively. Sixteen previous inspections had been carried out between 14 May 1991 and 8 December 1992. The seventeenth team inspected a number of facilities and sites. The eighteenth team inspected sites to determine whether any type of nuclear facility had been built underground. The team reported that "immediate in-field conclusions were negative". A major effort concentrated on identifying and separating a large number of radiation sources. Those which were permitted for use in applications in agriculture and industry would eventually be released according to established procedures. Other sources, such as radium and tritium, would be kept under IAEA control.

The team reported no progress on the provision by Iraq of information about foreign procurement and its procurement network, and said that Iraq was still far from complying with IAEA's request. However, Iraq said that IAEA had a great deal of information on the subject.

A third biological weapons inspection was undertaken from 11 to 18 March. Two previous inspections had been carried out between 2 August and 3 October 1991. The team inspected seven sites and equipment related to biological activities, most of which had been identified by previous Special Commission teams. It found no biological weapons, warheads or munition-filling facilities. However, several of the sites visited were determined to have dual capability; that is, in addition to their permitted use, they could be used for illegal efforts to produce biological weapons.

New type of inspection

On 4 February, the Special Commission announced that it had initiated on 26 January a new type of inspection activity in Iraq. A small "standing-inspector presence"—consisting of a team of four experts: two Russian and two American—had been established at the Ibn Al-Haytham missile research and development centre, located north of Baghdad, in order to assess and monitor research activities undertaken there. The team completed its task on 22 March.

Under the terms of resolution 687, the Commission pointed out, Iraq had agreed to renounce permanently weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres. The Commission had been charged in the non-nuclear areas with identifying and destroying those weapons and with monitoring Iraq's compliance with its obligation not to reacquire them. That resolution also called upon the Commission to draw up a plan for the ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance. That plan *(S/22871/Rev.1)* had been adopted by the Council in resolution 715 (1991) on 11 October 1991.

Resolve inconsistencies

The Commission said it had, by a combination of Iraqi declarations and its own activities, identified and destroyed a large number of items and facilities associated with Iraq's ballistic missile programmes. However, in the absence of full Iraqi declarations about the programmes, efforts to fill in the gaps and resolve inconsistencies in those declarations were continuing through inspection activities.

The Commission affirmed that Ibn Al-Haytham was Iraq's principal centre for research and development into missiles with a range shorter than 150 kilometres—missiles not banned under resolution 687—and that Iraq had assembled there scientific and technical personnel formerly involved in prohibited ballistic missile programmes.

The Centre should be monitored, the Commission said. However, Iraq had consistently refused to acknowledge its obligations pursuant to resolution 715, arguing that monitoring should be conducted on a basis acceptable to Iraq. The Commission insisted that it should be able to implement fully the UN plan.

A Special Commission official said on 6 April that a follow-up group was undertaking similar activities in relation to the fuel component of Iraq's ballistic missile programmes. It had started work on 27 March.

The Special Commission announced on 23 February that its Chemical Destruction Group at Muthanna State Establishment had completed on 14 February the destruction in Iraq of all the 122 millimetre rockets filled with the nerve agent sarin that were known to the Group. ■

Preparations for referendum asked

The Security Council on 2 March invited Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to make preparations for the organization of the referendum of self-determination of the people of Western Sahara and to consult with the parties—Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguia el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (POLISARIO)—on commencing voter registration promptly, starting with the updated lists of the 1974 census conducted by Spanish authorities.

In unanimously adopting resolution 809 (1993), the Council invited the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, to intensify efforts to resolve outstanding issues, particularly those relating to the interpretation and application of the criteria for voter eligibility.

The two parties were urged to cooperate fully in implementing the settlement plan for self-determination of the Territory's people and in resolving the outstanding issues.

The plan, approved by the Council on 27 June 1990 in resolution 658 (1990), calls for UN organization and supervision of the referendum, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), in which voters would choose between independence or integration with Morocco.

On 26 January, the Secretary-General reported *(S/25170)* that notwithstanding prior acceptance of general provisions of the plan, there were substantial disagreements between the parties regarding fundamental issues.

The differences between the parties "mirror their respective positions on what ought to be the composition of the electoral body".

The parties' opposing points of view on the electorate largely accounted for their differences as to interpretation of the criteria and evidence in support of applications for registration. POLISARIO, the Secretary-General pointed out, had emphasized the special importance of written evidence emanating from the Territory, in other words, authentic documents issued by Spanish authorities in the Territory, while Morocco had stressed the equal importance in a nomadic and traditional society of oral testimonies and official documents, regardless of their source.

Three options

According to the Secretary-General, three broad options would seem to be available:

(a) Continuation and, if possible, intensification of talks. (Chances for success under this option were very slim, he said.)

(b) Immediate implementation of the UN/OAU settlement plan, based on the instructions for application review set out in a 19 December 1991 report *(S/23299)*. (That might mean that the implementation would have to proceed without the cooperation of one of the parties, he noted.)

(c) Adoption of an alternative approach not based on the settlement plan.

The Secretary-General, therefore, asked for guidance from the Council on how best to proceed. Depending on the Council's decision, the role and strength of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) would have to be adjusted.

As of 20 January, MINURSO's military component totalled 328 personnel, including 228 military observers and 100 support personnel, as well as 103 civilian staff members. MINURSO's military mandate remained restricted to monitoring and verifying the cease-fire in effect since 6 September 1991.

In a 4 March letter *(A/48/95-S/25364)* to the Secretary-General, Algeria, as an observer State to the process of settling the conflict in Western Sahara, recalled that Morocco and POLISARIO had agreed that the 1974 census should constitute the point of reference and the basis for identifying the Saharans eligible to participate in the referendum for self-determination. The introduction of new elements not agreed to by both parties, it maintained, would be "incompatible with the spirit and letter of the settlement plan". ■

UN Photo 182630/M. Tzovaras

The Security Council asked for intensified efforts to resolve outstanding issues between Morocco and POLISARIO and advance progress towards a referendum.

UN interim offices promote transition

United Nations interim offices in seven former Soviet republics are facilitating a "practical and effective dialogue" to build the human and institutional capacity required to consolidate an early transition to democracy and a market economy, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali reported to the General Assembly's Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) on 23 March. The new units in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, established in 1992 to provide a unified UN presence in those States, were making "a valuable contribution" to the Organization's activities, he declared. The deteriorating situation in some members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the first three months of 1993 continued to draw UN attention. Following is an overview of the world body's involvement in that area.

Armenia, Azerbaijan

Security Council members on 29 January expressed their "deep concern" at the devastating effect of interruptions in the supply of goods and material, in particular energy supplies, to Armenia and to the Nakhichevan region of Azerbaijan. Combined with an unusually harsh winter, the Council stated that that had "brought the economy and infrastructure of the region to near collapse and created a real threat of starvation".

All countries in a position to help were urged to provide fuel and humanitarian assistance. Governments in the region were also asked to allow humanitarian supplies to "flow freely".

Full support was reaffirmed for the efforts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to achieve peace in the region. Parties in the dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh—a small Armenian-populated enclave in Azerbaijan—should agree to an immediate cease-fire and to an early resumption of talks within the CSCE framework, the Council said.

Georgia, Abkhazia

Fighting in Abkhazia—an autonomous republic in Georgia—continued unabated between the Georgian and Abkhaz forces, the Secretary-General reported *(S/25188)* on 28 January. Tens of thousands of civilians were displaced, creating a "serious humanitarian situation" aggravated by the winter season.

The Council on 29 January called *(S/25198)* on all parties to cease fighting immediately and implement the 3 September 1992 agreement stipulating a cease-fire and reaffirming the territorial integrity of Georgia. The text was agreed to in Moscow by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze, Head of State of Georgia, and by the leaders of Abkhazia.

Also, an inter-agency appeal for some $20 million in emergency humanitarian assistance for nearly 100,000 displaced persons in Georgia was launched by the UN on 2 March. An inter-agency mission visited Georgia from 30 January to 16 February and concluded that the internal strife in Abkhazia and South Ossetia—another separatist autonomous republic—combined with the economic decline, had been devastating.

Central Asian republics

On 11 January, another appeal for $20 million in emergency humanitarian assistance was launched by the UN for the Central Asian State of Tajikistan. Civil strife in the area had displaced some 400,000 of its citizens, with large numbers of refugees crossing the border into Afghanistan.

Also, a fact-finding survey mission is to be sent to five former Soviet republics in Central Asia—Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan—to develop a training programme on the legal aspects of financial management for that region, to be financed by the Swiss Federal Office of Foreign Economic Affairs. ■

eorgia
Armeni
Azerbai
Kazakhstan
Caspian Sea
Aral Sea
Asian Republics
Uzbekistan
Turkmenistan
Lake Balkhash
Kyrgyzstan
Iran

'Difficult transition ahead'

Action against apartheid continues

All parties in South Africa should reach agreement on the principles and modalities for the difficult transition ahead, based on "inclusiveness, mutual tolerance and respect", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stated on 22 March, at a solemn meeting of the Special Committee against Apartheid, held in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

South Africa was "at the dawn of a new era . . . marked by reconciliation and a renewed determination to overcome difficulties" through negotiation and dialogue, the Secretary-General said. The UN was committed to facilitating the negotiating process and had "spared no effort in bringing about peace and reconciliation".

Opening the solemn meeting, Special Committee Chairman Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria said he was heartened to see that South Africa had begun to "break away from the clutches of racism".

More observers sent

Security Council President Terence O'Brien of New Zealand welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to increase by 10 the number of observers in South Africa, whose presence had "proven to have a salutory effect". The Council urged all political entities in South Africa to "nurture the new opportunities" for dialogue.

This year's observance of the International Day—proclaimed by the General Assembly in 1966—marked the thirty-third anniversary of the 21 March 1960 massacre at Sharpeville, South Africa, of 69 unarmed persons, mostly women and children, demonstrating peacefully against the pass laws.

The international observer missions in South Africa—the UN, the Commonwealth, the European Community and the Organization of African Unity—called for a Day of Peace and Reconciliation in South Africa to be celebrated on 21 March.

In a joint statement on 16 March, they expressed "grave concern" over the escalation of violence in South Africa and called for a meeting between African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and Chief Buthelezi of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

South African authorities were urged to repeal the Internal Security Act and allow all political parties and interest groups to express themselves, especially during the time of transition to a democratic South Africa.

> **“All political entities in South Africa are urged to nurture new opportunities for dialogue”**

Pledges and contributions of more than $5 million were made to UN assistance programmes for southern Africa at a pledging conference held at UN Headquarters on 22 March.

In his opening remarks, the Secretary-General said that generosity was "needed now more than ever" during South Africa's process of transition. "The country and the region face massive tasks of political and social transformation", he said.

South African Foreign Minister R. F. Botha, in an 18 March message *(A/48/118)*, said his Government had pledged to "respect and protect the human dignity of every person", stating that all persons "shall be equal before the law and entitled to equal protection by the law". It had declared that "no person shall be favoured or prejudiced solely by reason of race, colour, language, sex, religion, ethnic origin, social class, birth, political or other convictions, or disabilities or other natural characteristics".

To strengthen further observance of human rights, the Government on 29 January became party to a number of international instruments, including those concerning the human rights of women and children.

IAEA welcomes disclosure

South Africa's disclosure of the military part of its nuclear programme and its assurances that the relevant facilities, equipment and material had been either destroyed or converted for peaceful use were welcomed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 24 March.

The Agency noted President F. W. de Klerk's recent statement disclosing that work had been done in the past on a limited number of military nuclear devices, but that it had been terminated prior to South Africa's accession to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty on 10 July 1991.

Also, the decision was announced by the Special Committee on 17 February to discontinue two registers—one of sports teams and individual athletes, and the other of entertainers, actors and others who had contacts with South Africa, set up in 1981 and 1983, respectively, to discourage sports and cultural contacts with South Africa. ■

'Culture of political tolerance' needed in South Africa

"Apartheid must be dead and buried by the end of the year", Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria, Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, said in a 19 March interview with UN Radio. Having visited South Africa as head of a five-member fact-finding mission of the Special Committee from 1 to 11 March, he concluded that the country needed a "culture of political tolerance"—something that must be established before elections for a Constituent Assembly. That should be a "prelude to the inauguration of a non-racial democracy in South Africa", he stressed. Following are excerpts from his statements.

UN Photo 182725/M. Tzovaras

Ibrahim A. Gambari of Nigeria, Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid.

The mission's mandate was broader than that of the UN Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA), which focuses principally on the issue of violence. We were to assess the whole programme of transition from apartheid to a non-racial democracy, with particular emphasis on the resumption of the multiparty negotiations.

We met with representatives of all major political parties and observed that there is cautious optimism regarding the resumption of multiparty negotiations. And that optimism has to be cautious, because there are still many problems, such as the issue of violence, the acrimonious debate about the issue of regionalism and federalism, and thirdly, what we perceived as lack of trust among some of the key players in the multiparty negotiations. Anyway, we strongly support negotiations, because we believe that the more you talk, the more you reach understanding and confidence. The media has also a very important role to play—it can help the leadership. On our part, the Special Committee is planning to organize in June a Conference on Political Tolerance in South Africa.

Although the General Assembly lifted the ban on people-to-people contacts, the sanctions should remain in force, because the international community still needs a leverage to pressure the South African Government not to renege and to make sure that the process of negotiations continues. What would warrant their lifting would be, for example, the progress towards the establishment of an interim government and, perhaps, the establishment of the Constituent Assembly which would serve as an interim parliament. At the same time, the reconstruction process should be initiated, because one of the sources of violence is that people are living under appalling conditions.

The international community should not wait until apartheid is eradicated to help the South African people in dealing with its legacies. And South Africa itself has the funds for reconstruction. Its people have savings in access of 200 billion rand (about $70 billion), but they are not investing domestically because of uncertainties of the future, of the political process, and because of the violence.

But for now, as we observed, the level of violence seems to be in fact becoming narrowed down to Natal, and most of the clashes are between the supporters of the Inkatha Freedom Party and the African National Congress (ANC). Before we left we saw a joint approach by those parties' leaderships to begin work at a grass-roots level to see that the violence subsides.

In this regard, the presence of UNOMSA was highly praised. Its role was found to be so commendable that there is now a move to increase the number of observers and to somewhat broaden its mandate, so that the international monitors become really part and parcel of the process of investigation of the root causes of violence and of finding solutions to them.

Apartheid will not be dead and buried unless there is a non-racial constitution, which permanently guarantees the people's rights, and elections are held under that constitution. The people of South Africa do not deserve the prolongation of apartheid beyond 1993. By the end of this year, substantial progress ought to be made—at least, a Transitional Executive Council should be in place and preparations concluded for elections, the first elections where all adults who are eligible to vote, of all races, are allowed to vote and do vote. ■

'Safe and immediate return' of deportees asked

UN Photo 182704

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali *(third from left)* meeting on 18 March with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin *(second from right, back to camera).*

Israel's deportation on 17 December 1992 of more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories has been strongly condemned by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

In adopting on 21 January without a vote a statement on the situation, the Committee also condemned what it called "Israel's persistent refusal" to comply with Security Council resolution 799 (1992), which demanded a "safe and immediate return" of the deportees to the occupied territories.

The Council was asked to take all necessary measures, including the application of Chapter VII of the UN Charter, to implement its resolution, which would help ensure the continuation of the peace process and preserve the Council's credibility.

Israel's deportation of Palestinian civilians to southern Lebanon was "illegal under international law and Security Council resolutions", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the Committee on 27 January.

Referring to his efforts to implement resolution 799, he said such developments underscored the need to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. "Only then can the root causes of the continuing violence be eliminated", the Secretary-General stated.

In January, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Chinmaya Gharekhan of India, had four meetings in Israel with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who said that his Government's decision to "expel temporarily" 415 Palestinians could not be rescinded. That action had been taken "in the light of a number of acts of violence" against Israeli citizens, Mr. Rabin stated.

No alternative

Palestinian representatives, whom Mr. Gharekhan met in Jerusalem, called for full implementation of Council resolution 799. Unless the deportees were permitted to return, they said, the Palestinian delegation would not resume peace talks, which had been launched at the international peace conference on the Middle East on 30 October 1991 in Madrid, Spain.

The Secretary-General, after reviewing Mr. Gharekhan's assessments, reported *(S/25149)* on 25 January that there was "no alternative to the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of all those deported".

Israel's decision on 1 February to allow the return of 101 deportees was denounced as being "not in compliance" with Council resolution 799 by Palestinian Permanent Observer to the UN, Dr. Nasser Al-Kidwa. Accepting that offer would be "tantamount to legitimizing deportation", he said in a 4 February letter *(S/25242)* to the Secretary-General.

Israeli Permanent Representative Gad Yaacobi on 9 February argued *(S/25258)* that the decision was an "act of good faith" on Israel's part and provided that all the excluded persons would be allowed to return "by the end of 1993".

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin on 18 March at Headquarters, said the unresolved issue of the deportees might continue to be a "stumbling block" in Palestinian reintegration into the peace process. Both agreed that the peace talks should be resumed as soon as possible.

Committee Chairman Kéba Birane Cissé of Senegal reported *(A/47/911-S/25464)* on 23 March that since mid-December, there had been a "rise in clashes" between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians living in the occupied territories, with some 50 Palestinians shot and killed in street disturbances—a death rate "not seen in several years".

Mandate extended

The Security Council on 28 January extended the mandate of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for another six-month period until 31 July.

In adopting unanimously resolution 803 (1993), the Council reiterated its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon, and called upon all parties concerned to "cooperate fully with the Force for the full implementation of its mandate". ■

AFGHANISTAN

Peace Accord welcomed

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on 9 March welcomed the signing in Islamabad on 7 March of the Afghan Peace Accord. The comprehensive Accord states that Afghanistan President Burhanuddin Rabbani would remain in office for another 18 months, while Hizb-e-Islami leader Gulbadin Hikmatyar or his nominee would become Prime Minister. State affairs would be carried out by the two, in consultation with other Afghan leaders. An independent election commission would be formed immediately to hold elections for a constituent assembly within eight months from the signing of the Accord.

The Secretary-General said he hoped the Accord, which provides for an immediate cease-fire and a permanent cessation of hostilities after the formation of a Cabinet, would "pave the way for the establishment of a representative government and ensure peace, long desired by the Afghan people, and which is necessary for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the devastated country".

He also hoped that the cease-fire would improve the security situation and permit the unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in need, "which has always been a priority concern and activity" of the UN in Afghanistan.

Present at the signing ceremony were Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and representatives of Saudi Arabia and Iran. Mr. Sharif described the Accord as "historic" and urged Afghans to forget their differences.

In a 10 March statement *(S/25432)*, Senegalese President and current Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Abdou Diouf welcomed the Accord and expressed hope that national reconciliation would come about at once in Afghanistan. He also expressed hope that the cease-fire would be respected by the warring parties, and said that the OIC, which was a member of the cease-fire monitoring committee, would do its utmost to contribute to the prompt and effective implementation of the Accord.

On 21 January, the UN issued a consolidated appeal for $138.1 million in emergency humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said that despite adverse conditions, more than 1.5 million refugees had returned to Afghanistan in 1992 and up to 2 million were expected to follow.

The appeal focused on "life-sustaining" actions such as mine clearance, voluntary repatriation assistance, food aid, health facilities, water supply and sanitation aid, as well as emergency agricultural inputs. ■

CYPRUS

Joint negotiations resume

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on 30 March met jointly in New York with the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities—new Cyprus President Glafkos Clerides and His Excellency Rauf Denktash, respectively—to discuss the timing, modalities and preparations for the resumption of substantive direct negotiations as specifically mandated by the Security Council.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate with the Secretary-General in the context of his mission of good offices. They expressed their willingness to resume the joint negotiations on 24 May in New York, using the set of ideas endorsed by the Council on 10 April 1992 for reaching freely a mutually acceptable overall framework agreement.

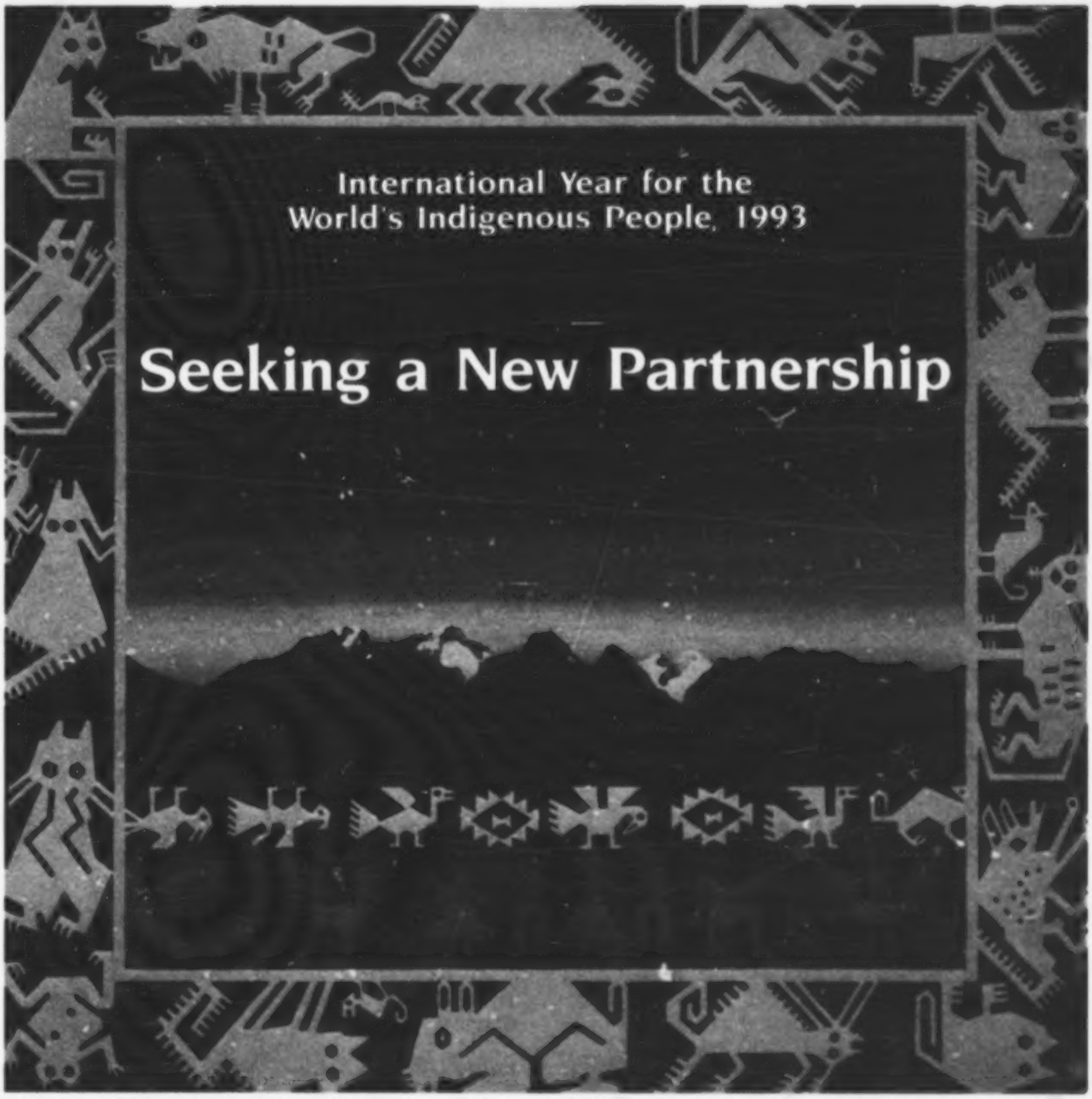
The joint negotiations would be preceded by preparatory meetings in Nicosia with the Secretary-General's representatives and the two leaders to clarify and address their specific concerns relating to the draft overall framework agreement.

They would also discuss the implementation of confidence-building measures, with a view to creating a new climate of confidence that would contribute to the success of the negotiating process.

The Secretary-General welcomed the leaders' declared intentions to meet privately from time to time, and to hold meetings with the heads of political parties from both sides in parallel with the negotiations under his mission of good offices. Mr. Boutros-Ghali said such encounters could help overcome long-standing mutual distrust and could contribute to the success of both the preparatory process and the joint negotiations.

On 26 March, Security Council members reaffirmed that the present status quo was not acceptable and that a mutually acceptable overall framework agreement should be achieved without delay on the basis of the set of ideas. The two leaders were called upon "to manifest their goodwill by cooperating fully with the Secretary-General so that the substantive direct negotiations" would result in "significant progress".

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cyprus, Oscar Camillion, resigned as of 31 March to become Argentina's Defence Minister. Mr. Camillion was appointed as Special Representative on 29 October 1987. ■


International Year for the World's Indigenous People, 1993

Seeking a New Partnership

Richly symbolizing the intimate relationship between indigenous people and the Earth, this painting by Bolivian artist Alejandro Salazar is one of six posters featuring indigenous designs issued by the International Labour Organisation to commemorate the Year.

By Nancy Seufert-Barr

The bushmen of Botswana, the Ainu of Japan, the Pygmies of central Africa, the Inuits of the Arctic, the Yanomami of Brazil and the Maori of New Zealand may be as different as day and night in their cultures, customs and traditions. But they—and some of the 300 million indigenous people worldwide—face a common threat: being civilized to extinction. Their names are many: Aborigines, Indians, autochthonous people; natives; or first people. But all indigenous people belonging to 5,000 or so groups scattered in more than 70 countries are descendants of the original inhabitants of their lands.

UN Photo 119482

Indigenous Papua New Guinean.

FAO Photo 6613/V18a

Andean Indians of Ecuador.

UN Photo 155900/ Isaac

Toda girl of India.

The contribution of these "first peoples" to modern civilization is pervasive. They were the original cultivators of such staple foods as peppers, potatoes, peas, sugar cane, garlic and tomatoes; the first to develop and use most of the world's plant-based pharmaceuticals, from aspirin to quinine; and have given the English language such words as canoe, barbecue and squash.

Despite their great influence on the food we eat, the languages we speak, and the sciences and medicines we use to better our lives, indigenous people have often, at best, been forgotten and, at worst, been driven from their lands, robbed of their cultures, excluded from political decision-making, brutally socialized and economically exploited.

Oldest but most vulnerable societies

"We use the term 'indigenous peoples' because they were the first to live on their land, beginning hundreds or even thousands of years ago", Stoyan Ganev, President of the forty-seventh General Assembly, has stated. "Yet today—after conquest, occupation, forced assimilation, and enslavement, followed by neglect—some of the oldest societies in the world are among the most vulnerable societies in the world. The international community is increasingly coming to appreciate that so-called 'civilization' has much to learn from so-called 'primitive peoples', but the question is whether we will learn our lessons in time."

A new partnership

In order to remove stereotypes about indigenous people and raise public awareness of their plight, the General Assembly on 18 December 1990 adopted resolution 45/164, proclaiming 1993 as the International Year for the World's Indigenous People.

With the theme "Indigenous People: A New Partnership", the Year aims primarily to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in the areas of human rights, environment, development, education and health.

"For centuries, indigenous people have lived at the margins of national and international life", said Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at the official launching of the Year on 10 December 1992.

"Some have continued to live according to their traditional ways, and have not adopted the predominant language or religion of their country. Many have been outcasts in their own lands. Rarely have they been incorporated by the larger societies in which they lived. Often they have been denied citizenship by the authorities of their States."

The Secretary-General continued: "The ancestral lands of indigenous people were 'discovered' by colonial Powers and then allocated to foreign settlers. In many countries, the indigenous people were relegated to reserved territories or confined to inaccessible or inhospitable regions. Some Governments viewed as subversive those who did not share the sedentary lifestyle or the culture of the majority. Nations of farmers tended to view nomads or hunting people with fear or contempt. Many indigenous people seemed doomed to extinction."

A welcome change is taking place at national and international levels as indigenous people form their own organizations and actively seek to improve their situations. As issues such as sustainable development are accorded greater political weight, the international community has also shown greater respect for the special relationship that indigenous people have with their lands and ancient cultures.

Objectives

To encourage the new partnership, the Year will foster:

- Participation of indigenous people in the planning, implementation and evaluation of projects affecting their future and living conditions.
- Knowledge about international standards, developed over the past several decades by UN bodies, for protecting the rights of indigenous peoples.
- Public awareness of the situation of indigenous peoples and the threats to their existence, through special observances, meetings and other promotional and cultural activities, as well as media coverage.

A special fund has been created to assist with the Year's programmes and activities, and to foster education and cultural events. Through contributions from Governments, the UN intends to help indigenous communities undertake specific projects to improve the situation.

The ILO: Improving indigenous livelihoods

Created under the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, together with the League of Nations, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 1946 became the first specialized agency associated with the United Nations. The ILO, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969, aims to foster peace by improving the economic well-being of the world's peoples, in particular by bettering living standards, conditions of work, salary and employment opportunities.

ILO's concern for indigenous people dates back to 1926, when it launched studies of indigenous workers. In the early 1950s, the organization launched an ambitious multidisciplinary development programme for indigenous inhabitants of the Andes region in South America. In 1957, the ILO adopted the first international instrument—Convention 107 on Indigenous and Tribal Populations—specifically to protect indigenous people. The Convention, which was revised in 1989 to eliminate some paternalistic language, recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples to own the land they have traditionally occupied, retain their own religion, enjoy health care and be educated in their mother tongue.

The first international body to take steps to promote the rights of indigenous groups was the International Labour Organisation (ILO) which began work on the issue in the 1950s. It adopted in 1989 ILO Convention No. 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples, which affirms that no State or social group has the right to deny the identity to which an indigenous people may lay claim, and places responsibility on States for ensuring, with the participation of indigenous peoples, their rights and integrity. The ILO is a partner, along with the UN Centre for Human Rights, in organizing the Year, with the help of a small secretariat that includes indigenous people.

UN Photo 182824

Quiche activist Rigoberta Menchu (left), winner of the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize, is Goodwill Ambassador for the Year.

The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has also encouraged cultural expression and activities by indigenous people, particularly through its international conventions elaborated to protect cultural property rights.

A major turning point came in 1970, when the UN Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities recommended that a detailed study be made of discrimination against indigenous populations. The resulting report provided information, definitions and recommendations for UN action.

Over the past decade, the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations, created by the Subcommission in 1982, has been the focus of indigenous rights activities within the UN system. During annual sessions, the five-member Working Group considers international standards for the treatment of indigenous peoples and makes recommendations to the UN Commission on Human Rights through the Subcommission.

From its inception, the Working Group has been an open forum for all indigenous groups and individuals: more than 600 people from all over the world attended its 1992 session in Geneva.

A real 'people's forum'

The Right Reverend Sir Paul Reeves, Anglican Church Observer at the UN and Chairman of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on the International Year, has described the Group as "lively", "intelligent", and "evocative". Said he: "It is a real people's forum and it is a forum of indigenous people and anybody who comes through the door can attend. I don't know of many other forums in the UN which allow that to happen."

Since 1985, the Group has been drafting a Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, which is expected to be completed this year. Preambular paragraphs of the draft highlight the affirmation that "all indigenous peoples are free and equal in dignity and rights to all peoples" and that there is an "urgent need to respect and promote the rights and characteristics of indigenous peoples, especially their rights to the lands, territories and resources, which stem from their history, philosophy, cultures and spiritual and other traditions, as well as from their political, economic and social structures".

The draft's operative paragraphs proclaim that indigenous peoples have the right to:

- be protected from genocide;
- maintain their distinct ethnic and cultural identities;
- use their own languages;
- own and control their traditional lands;
- be compensated for confiscated lands;
- be consulted on development projects affecting them; and
- participate "on an equal footing" in political, economic, social and cultural life.

Finalization and adoption of the Declaration will be "another milestone in the long struggle by indigenous people for recognition of their rights", Mr. Boutros-Ghali told the forty-seventh General Assembly. "Agreeing on the text of the declaration and reaching consensus on the treatment of indigenous people will not be easy or straightforward. The situation of indigenous people changes widely. Some communities wish to preserve their distinctive ancient culture apart from the mainstream; others seek the path of integration into modern society. . . . Human rights are universal, but the promotion and protection of the human rights of indigenous people require a special sensitivity to particular situations."

New attitudes: No longer 'on hold'

Such efforts, combined with the growing activism of aboriginal groups in many regions, have produced signs that States are beginning to develop a new attitude towards the indigenous populations.

Central Africa: Civilization knocking

In the rain forests of the Central African Republic, clans of Aka Pygmies maintain a traditional hunting and gathering lifestyle just hours away—but centuries removed—from twentieth century civilization.

Distinguishable by their small stature, averaging about 4.5 feet, some 200,000 Pygmies live in and off the lush equatorial forests of central Africa, from southwestern Cameroon to Burundi. Men still hunt game with bows and arrows and skillfully climb high trees to harvest wild honey. Women gather wild berries, mushrooms, edible roots, termites and large, protein-rich caterpillars—a special delicacy.

A joyful people who love to sing and dance, the Pygmies build their huts from leaves and thatch, catch fish by constructing small dams in streams and rivers, and fashion hunting nets from forest vines. They have no concept of wealth or even of surplus accumulation beyond their daily bread.

Indeed, although they are thought to be the oldest inhabitants of the Central African Republic, Pygmies comprise only about 20,000 of the country's total population of 3 million.

However, as modernization creeps closer via loggers and clear-cutting farmers, the nomadic Pygmies are being forced out of the forests to live ever more sedentary lives.

Outside the forest, the natural immunities no longer protect them from disease, and many experience protein deficiencies as their hunting declines.

Courtesy American Museum of Natural History

Pygmy elder with traditional instrument.

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) has been working to ensure that the Pygmies are included in the Central African Republic's development efforts and that such initiatives do not undermine Pygmy culture. One major focus is education, to provide Pygmies with the tools they need to get along in modern society. "The process of modernization seems irreversible", one UNDP expert has commented. "If the Pygmies can live in both worlds, its effects on them will not be so serious, but we must offer them a choice."

In 1979, the Parliament of Denmark granted self-government to Greenland and jurisdiction over education, health care, social welfare and economic development. Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia and Mexico have adopted far-reaching laws on the rights of indigenous people, while in Canada, 1 million native people have attained unprecedented levels of political power, including the creation of an entire territory called Nunavut, recently ceded to the Inuits of the Arctic region. In New Zealand, the Government and the National Maori Congress are engaged in constructive dialogue to resolve a number of disputes, including the issue of self-rule.

The fight to defend indigenous people was highlighted when the 1992

Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Quiche activist Rigoberta Menchu of Guatemala in recognition of her work for social justice and ethno-cultural reconciliation. Ms. Menchu, who is Goodwill Ambassador for the International Year, told the Commission on Human Rights on 18 February that the Year "must mean more than symbolic attention from the countries of the world: the cultural, material and social rights of indigenous peoples can no longer be left on hold".

The Year also coincides with an important occasion for human rights with the convening of the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in June. Says the Secretary-General: "The international community is seeking by both events to illustrate one and the same value: the wealth of all singularity."

Indigenous organizations hope the Year will secure their cultural integrity, as well as strong ties to the lands they have lived on for thousands of years. Greater autonomy and self-rule are crucial to secure these ancestral territories, as well as claims to the natural resources of these lands. They want social justice, respect for their heritage and full participation in decision-making processes that affect them. A generation ago, many indigenous people were not entitled to vote.

Enhanced economic development

Enhanced economic development is another important goal, as past travesties have kept the world's indigenous people some of the most disadvantaged populations on earth. They have been deprived of their means of livelihood and devastated by disease.

"They are the poorest, most discriminated against, vulnerable, and disadvantaged group of society", says Erica-Irene Daes, Chairman-Rapporteur of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations. In India, most tribal people live below the poverty line; the life expectancy of indigenous people in northern Russia is 18 years less than the national average; unemployment among Australia's Aborigines is five times the national average; and the poorest county in the United States, according to the 1990 census, is that of the Pine Ridge Reservation of the Oglala Sioux in South Dakota.

The indigenous are also on the frontline of environmental degradation, although indigenous cultures themselves are models of long-term, sustainable land use and management.

Many indigenous communities are simply struggling to be themselves. "Indigenous peoples have told us that their human rights are part of a total quest for well-being", says Ms. Daes. "This holistic approach, which recognizes the interconnection of development, peace, environment and human rights issues, is one which is increasingly recognized by the United Nations itself."

Above all, the Year aims to encourage a new relationship between States and indigenous peoples, between the international community and the world's "first nations"—a new partnership based on mutual respect and understanding. For, as Mr. Boutros Ghali maintained at the launching of the Year, "unity through diversity is the only true and enduring unity".

Siberia: Isolated assimilation

Courtesy American Museum of Natural History

Indigenous life in Siberia revolved around reindeer.

The Tofa people, one of the smallest among several hundred distinct ethnic groups in the former Soviet Union, have survived in a snowy, isolated Siberian region north of Mongolia for millennia. Like many indigenous cultures in Russia, the ancient, distinctive society of the Tofa, numbering just 600 people today, has been disappearing under the burden of a century of Soviet collectivization and assimilation. Indeed, many Russian indigenous groups are on "the brink of biological disappearance", stated Evdokia Gaer, General Secretary of the International League of Smaller (Indigenous) Peoples and Ethnic Groups of the Russian Federation, before the General Assembly on 10 December 1992.

Tofa culture traditionally revolved around reindeer, which were integral to their hunting/gathering lifestyle. Employing herds of up to 30 reindeer, the Tofa migrated continuously with their few household belongings and small children loaded on wooden saddles. Reindeer milk was an important part of their diet.

In the 1930s, during Soviet collectivization, the Tofa were forced to settle in three villages and adopt a sedentary lifestyle. Herds of reindeer, milked excessively and cared for improperly by non-indigenous administrators, have degenerated from inbreeding and thinned out due to disease.

The disappearance of the reindeer prevents the Tofa from returning to their traditional lifestyles. The ancient oral culture of the Tofa is also dying, as is their native tongue. In 1989, less than half the Tofa population was native-speaking.

As one expert on Siberia's indigenous cultures has noted, the Tofa's ability to survive in their isolated outpost may not have prepared them to survive a collision with an indifferent modern world.

Painting by Maori artist Elizabeth Aroha Ellis of New Zealand for an ILO poster depicting traditional "puhoro" pattern of South Pacific waves and symbolizing regeneration and growth.

The development dilemma:

Sustaining resources, improving livelihoods

Often called the guardians or caretakers of the earth, indigenous people share a profound attachment to and stewardship of their environment, which encompasses many of the world's most valuable and vulnerable ecosystems, including the Arctic, tundra, mountains, boreal woodlands, riverine and coastal zones, semi-arid rangelands and tropical forests.

In order to survive for millennia on these fragile environments, native people have developed a holistic knowledge of their land and resources that many contemporary societies lack. Where most of humankind tends to seek dominion over the natural world, the approach of indigenous people is the very essence of sustainable development—development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to survive and flourish.

"It is only the new sensibilities the rest of us have developed over the grave ecological damage we are doing that allows us now to appreciate the way indigenous peoples instinctively relate to the environment and otherwise conduct their lives", General Assembly President Stoyan Ganev stated in launching the International Indigenous Year on 10 December 1992. "Instead of following indigenous peoples' example of how to love and how to live with their land, too often we have coveted it and tried to expropriate it."

Indeed, indigenous societies employ some of the most successful, sustainable and environmentally-friendly methods of resource management and land use, including nomadic pastoralization, shifting cultivation, various forms of agro-forestry, terrace farming, hunting, herding and fishing. Such traditional agricultural methods promote land conservation and biological diversity.

Moreover, their religious practices often involve setting aside forests and other lands as sacred preserves for wildlife, spirits and deities. Indigenous people also possess extensive knowledge of herbal medicine, soils, plants, animals and climate.

The Kayapo people of Brazil, for example, practice sophisticated

A new partnership

Ben Gibson/SABA

Eskimo women of Canada

Courtesy of American Museum of Natural History

Masai tribesmen of Kenya

Courtesy of American Museum of Natural History

Ainu family of Japan

methods of cultivation, such as seed selection and crop rotation, to ensure regrowth and replenishment of the forest. A Kayapo leader has explained: "I am trying to save the knowledge that the forests and this planet are alive, to give it back to you who have lost the understanding."

Many indigenous groups attended the UN Conference on Environment and Development—known as the Earth Summit—in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992, and left their mark on two of the Summit's main achievements: the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, a broad statement of principles outlining the rights and responsibilities of States towards the environment; and Agenda 21, a far-reaching action plan for sustainable development.

Principle 22 of the Rio Declaration states: "Indigenous people and their communities . . . have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices. States should recognize and duly support their identity, culture and interests and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development."

Agenda 21 also views indigenous people as fundamental to environmental recovery and recommends using their experience and knowledge in sustainable development. Among other things, the document calls on Governments and international organizations to empower indigenous communities, provide more and better safeguards against environmentally unsound activities that could affect indigenous people or their lands, and take measures to improve the overall quality of life of indigenous people.

International lending agencies, such as the World Bank, have also pledged to be more sensitive to the concerns of indigenous people when making decisions about development projects.

One example: the International Fund for Agricultural Development recently launched a $2-million project to promote the role of some 120,000 indigenous inhabitants of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela in the sustainable management of the Amazon forests.

Enormous gap

An enormous gap remains, however, between the goals set forth in Rio and the plight of indigenous people. In the last 40 years, their lands have come under relentless pressure as Governments, development banks, national and transnational corporations, and entrepreneurs search for resources to meet the growing demands of high-consumption societies and fast-swelling populations in developing countries.

Deforestation has devastated the homelands of millions of indigenous people, particularly in Asia and South America. In Sarawak, Malaysia, home to 220,000 tribal peoples collectively known as Dayaks, it is estimated that 3 hectares of ancient virgin forest are cut down every minute—faster than anywhere else on earth.

Progress means destruction

Anderson Mutang Urud of the Kelabit people of Sarawak lamented to the General Assembly on 10 December 1992: "The Government said it was bringing progress and development, but . . . the so-called progress means only the destruction of our culture and the demoralization of our people. The Government said it was creating jobs for the people, but those jobs will disappear along with the forest. In 10 years, the jobs will all be gone; and the forests which have sustained the people for thousands of years will be gone with them."

Indigenous people are also at risk from development projects, such as dam-building, irrigation and mining, which flood, strip and ruin their traditional lands. Similarly, waste dumping in oceans, wetlands and coastal areas has tainted indigenous fishing grounds. Acid rain has killed thousands of lakes and vast forest tracts in North America and northern Europe, particularly in Scandinavia, home to Saami and other indigenous people. Nuclear testing has exposed Pacific islanders to unacceptable levels of radioactivity.

Unfortunately, indigenous people have also engaged in unsustainable practices. Like other poor people, they often must choose between short-term survival and long-term environmental health. Some have had to hunt wildlife to near extinction and cultivate marginal lands using destructive slash and burn agriculture. Nevertheless, experts say, the planet's most healthy ecosystems tend to be found in indigenous areas.

The role of indigenous people in the practice of sustainable development was the focus of a meeting of representatives of Governments and indigenous groups in Santiago, Chile, in May 1992, before the Earth Summit. Participants adopted a set of working principles, stating that indigenous people should determine their own development, control their own institutions and use their resources as they see fit.

The draft Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that indigenous people have the right to:

- recognition of their distinctive and profound relationship with the "total environment of the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally occupied or otherwise used" and to "own, control and use" those lands;
- protection and rehabilitation of the total environment and productive capacity of their lands and territories, and
- engage freely in their traditional and other economic activities, including hunting, fishing, herding, gathering, lumbering and cultivation.

Early-warning system

In a sense, indigenous people constitute an early-warning system for environmental problems. As the earth is the core of their culture, the indigenous are among the first to suffer when unsustainable practices encroach upon their existence.

Preservation of indigenous people is, therefore, indissolubly linked to the fate of their lands and natural resources. Says Chilean expert Mario Ibarra: "Indigenous peoples have a message for the world about their relationship to life and nature. Their concept of development goes against and beyond that of individual development: the land is sacred, it is not merchandise to be exploited, but a base of life for all. The land should be preserved for future generations." ■

South America: Saving the Yanomami

By far the most grievous environmental catastrophe to have befallen indigenous peoples—one that threatens not only their livelihoods and social fabric, but their very existence—is the ongoing destruction of the world's tropical rain forests. Home to 50 million indigenous people, rain forests are being logged to feed a lucrative export market and burned to clear new land for crops or grazing.

The results have been devastating: flooding; loss of biological diversity; desertification; destruction of sacred sites; disruption of traditional economic activities, such as fishing and hunting; forced relocation and displacement. The fallout has also included poverty, mental anguish, alcoholism, prostitution and high suicide rates, especially pronounced among the young.

Perhaps nowhere is the siege more evident or well-publicized than in South America's Amazonia—the majestic basin covering 7 per cent of the Earth's surface and comprising more than half of the world's biological heritage. Just one hectare of the Amazon's lush forests contains more tree species than all of North America. Yet, of the 6 million to 9 million indigenous people who inhabited this paradise, only a few dispersed groups remain. In this century alone, as many as 90 entire tribes have ceased to exist.

In the Amazon forests of Brazil, the Yanomami Indians—numbering less than 10,000, but still the largest single Indian tribe on the planet still practising the traditional way of life—have not only seen their homelands disappear to deforestation, but also had their health devastated by pollution and disease.

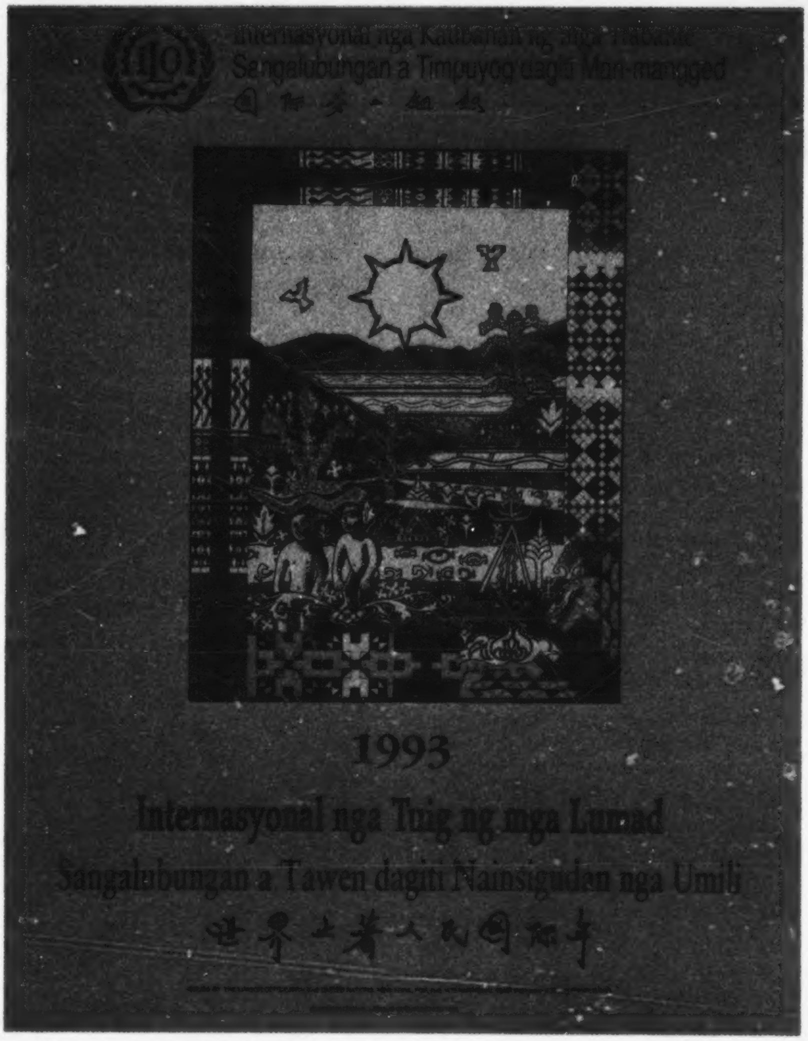
Prospectors invaded Yanomami lands in the mid-1980s in search of gold and diamonds. The mercury they used poisoned nearly 1,500 kilometres of the Amazonian river system, while the miners themselves brought in diseases unknown to forest dwellers. The result: more than half of the Yanomami population has been afflicted with measles, malaria, syphilis or other diseases. Between 1987 and 1989 alone, some 15 per cent of the Yanomami died from disease or malnutrition.

Mark Ludak/Impact Visuals

Yanomami man wearing traditional head-dress.

The Yanomami's plight sparked a global outcry to save the Amazon rain forests and their inhabitants—a campaign which has recently begun to pay off. On 15 November 1991, Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello decreed the demarcation of 9.4 million hectares of the Amazon forests—an area comprising 11 per cent of Brazil's territory—as a permanent reserve for the Yanomami.

Such policies are not only key to the continuing survival of the 400 ethnic groups—with a population of about 1 million—who endure in the Amazon but also are essential to sustainable management of the valuable region.


ILO
Sangalubungan a Timpuyog dagiti Man-mangged
1993
Internasyonal nga Tuig ng mga Lumad
Sangalubungan a Tawen dagiti Nainsigudan nga Umili

Traditional landscape painting by Bontok artist Jordan Mangosan of the Philippines.

Preserving the past, Providing a future:

Land claims and self-rule

The bond between indigenous people and their homelands is spiritual, economic and ancestral. The tribe is the communal trustee of the land for living members, as well as for past and future generations, but indigenous people often follow a land-based religion, believing that when their land is taken away, so is the spirit that gives them life. Indeed, land is the lifeblood of traditional existence, providing indigenous people with their food, shelter and possessions.

But during a history plagued by foreign conquest, colonization and assimilation, masses of indigenous people have been forced off their ancestral lands or relegated to impoverished and subordinated lives if they remained, despite existing treaties enacted to protect their territorial rights.

In waging an ongoing struggle to secure or regain what they view as legally and historically theirs, indigenous communities have achieved incremental progress by resorting to the very legal tools that have let them down in the past.

Land claims have gathered particular momentum in Canada, with the recent signing of an agreement that will give ownership to some 40,000 Inuit (as Eskimos prefer to be known) and other indigenous tribes living near the Arctic of a vast expanse of wilderness and tundra. The new territory, called Nunavut, is to be established by the year 2000.

Pressing for land rights

In the United States, the Western Shoshone are pressing claims to several million acres taken from them by an act of Congress in 1863, and the Lakota Sioux have refused to accept more than $100 million in court-awarded compensation for the Black Hills, a sacred area expropriated by Congress in 1874 after gold was discovered there.

The High Court of Australia declared in 1992 that the traditional land rights of the Murray Island people in the Torres Straits had not been extinguished by the arrival of the British in Australia, which set a completely new agenda for the national debate on indigenous rights.

Similarly, 500,000 native Ecuadorians successfully demonstrated for legal title to more than 2.5 million acres of Amazon land in 1990. Colombia has also begun to acknowledge the territorial rights of some 500,000 indigenous people, who inhabit nearly 25 per cent of the country's land area.

The rising tide of land claims put forth by indigenous communities has been matched by intensified efforts to secure greater autonomy and political power.

Although the great majority of the nearly 300 million indigenous and tribal peoples live in Asia and the Americas, progress towards indigenous self-rule has been led by the Nordic countries, where a strong liberal democratic tradition, coupled with effective political organization on the part of indigenous communities, has made self-rule and high levels of local autonomy a reality.

The Saami people of Finland were granted what some describe as an exceptional concession with the creation of a Saami Parliament in 1973, a move replicated for the Saami people of Norway in 1987.

Denmark passed a Home Rule Act in 1979, granting the local Inuit population of Greenland wide powers of self-government within a single State system, while maintaining the territorial and legal unity of Denmark. Although they cannot enter international treaties on their own, the Inuit of Greenland now have considerable legislative autonomy on a wide range of domestic issues.

Colonial treaties: A problem

In the developing world, a major problem area for tribal peoples is that of treaties promulgated during colonial rule. In the post-colonial era, many such agreements have been sidestepped, amplified or otherwise changed.

Many indigenous communities have had no choice but to place their grievances before the international community through the UN. Indigenous people base their claims for the right to self-rule on the fact that the principle of self-determination is mentioned in the UN Charter and included in the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights, and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Commenting on the subject of self-rule in 1991, Antoine Blanca, former Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights said: "One of the central issues in the elaboration of new standards to protect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples is that of autonomy or internal self government." However, he added, "there is as yet no consensus on this important principle".

A milestone in the struggle for self-rule was marked in September 1991 when a UN meeting of experts was convened in Nuuk, Greenland, to review schemes of internal self-government for indigenous people.

The participants, including representatives of Governments, indigenous organizations, and UN specialized agencies, recognized that "indigenous peoples are historically self-governing, with their own languages and cultures, laws and traditions" and that self-determination is a "precondition for freedom, justice and peace, both within States and in the international community".

The experts also recognized the concerns of States by emphasizing that the realization of political rights "should not pose a threat to the territorial integrity of the State" and that "within States, autonomy and self-government for indigenous peoples contribute to peaceful and equitable political, spiritual, social and economic development".

The UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations has also advocated autonomy as the most viable way to achieve equality and freedom from discrimination, and the draft Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms the principle of self-rule. ■

China: Sustaining diversity

Bisected by the muddy trail of the Mekong River as it winds through the extreme southwest corner of China's Yunnan Province, the misty tropical region of Xishuangbanna is rich in both natural and ethnic diversities. This autonomous region, along the border with Burma and Laos, is home to some 600,000 indigenous inhabitants representing a dozen different nationalities, predominated by the Dai people.

Most Dai are Buddhists, but they maintain an ancient animistic belief in the preservation of a "holy hill" as an inviolable place for the gods. In Xishuangbanna, there are some 400 "holy hills", constituting a long native tradition of environmental conservation. But a growing burden of overpopulation in the ethnic region seriously threatens this historical balance, as does the introduction of modern cash crops, such as rubber, which has encouraged slash and burn agriculture at the expense of more sustainable, traditional practices. The combination has taken a sad toll on the unique tropical rain forests and the customary lifestyles of the region.

Indeed, over the last two decades, Xishuangbanna's population has more than doubled, while its tropical forest cover has been halved. So many plants and animals endemic to Xishuangbanna are now at risk—including elephants, tigers, monkeys, and peacocks—that they comprise fully one third of China's endangered species.

N. Seufert-Barr

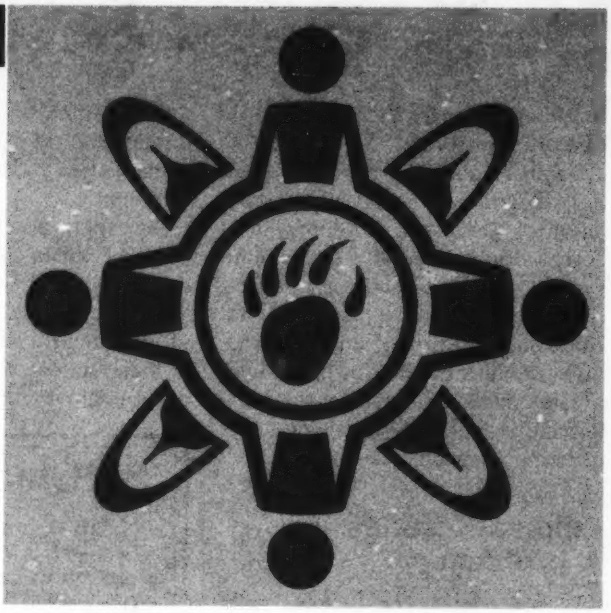
Dai women at their traditional open hearth.

To safeguard the region's natural resources, the Chinese Government has set aside some 2,000 square kilometres as nature reserves, relocating entire villages from the protected areas. However, some 80 indigenous communities have refused to leave. Instead, they are looking for novel ways to survive on the forest without cutting it down.

In one part of the reserve, indigenous dwellers have found that harvesting butterflies is a sustainable alternative to hunting big game. The butterflies, which regenerate quickly, bring profits to the local communities from the international market in exotic insects. This combination of new livelihoods on traditional lands may provide a sustainable future for both the environment and its indigenous inhabitants.

Conserving heritage:

Cultural and intellectual property rights



Design representing generations in harmony by Ojibway artist Joseph Sagutch of Canada.

For centuries, cultural artifacts have been stolen from indigenous people, sold and displayed in violation of their beliefs. Similarly, medicinal plants developed over thousands of years by traditional healers have reaped big earnings in the pharmaceutical market—with very small profit shared with the indigenous originators. Native legend song, lore and language—few are unscathed by the long history of injustice towards the intellectual and cultural property rights of indigenous people.

One challenge in dealing with these rights is in balancing two distinct ideas as to how they should be handled. One view, subscribed to by many indigenous peoples, holds that they themselves must protect their own traditions, ideas, innovations and objects, and that only self-protection will guarantee preservation of their property and adequate compensation for its use.

Opposing this perspective is the claim of some States that, because many indigenous knowledge bases and cultural objects have universal value, they are part of the world's common heritage. Under this view, these objects and ideas should be accessible to all in society for legitimate scientific and educational purposes. It is hoped that the International Year for the World's Indigenous People will increase the commitment of the international community to help indigenous people realize their rights in both areas.

Cultural property

Cultural property rights focus on enabling indigenous peoples to preserve and control the use of their relics, archaeological sites, textiles, skeletal remains, rituals, songs, legends, and other materials.

The term "cultural property" was formally coined by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict—known as the Hague Convention—which was elaborated in 1954. The first in-depth definition was described in the landmark 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. The term is defined as "property which, on religious or secular grounds, is specifically designated by each State as being of importance for archaeology, prehistory, history, literature, art or science". While the document focused on the repatriation of cultural property to its place of origin, the scope of cultural property was broadened to include sites of outstanding universal value with the adoption of the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

These international Conventions have provided some redress for the exploited cultural heritage of indigenous people. The 1970 Convention, for example, gave the support of international law to the claims of the Aymara community in Cormoa, Bolivia, which in 1988 began pursuing the repatriation of sacred weavings that disappeared in 1978 during visits by North American ethnic art and antiquities dealers.

In Canada as well, the Kwakiotl Indians were able to invoke the Convention to secure the return of artifacts taken when police broke up a "Potlatch" ceremony in 1922. This ancient rite, held to celebrate important events such as initiations, deaths or the investiture of chiefs and marked by feasting, spirit-dancing and gift-giving, was banned in Canada from 1884 until 1951.

However, the international Conventions do not reflect all the concerns of indigenous people. For instance, they make no reference to skeletal remains, which are frequently displayed in museums in a manner perceived by native cultures as undignified and sacrilegious.

To augment the treaties, the UN General Assembly has formulated resolutions to support cultural property rights, including a 1991 appeal to States to conclude bilateral agreements for the return of cultural property to its country of origin.

Finalization of the draft Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will further expand the protection of historical sites and structures, artifacts, designs, ceremonies and works of art. The draft also provides that indigenous people have the "right to the repatriation of human remains".

Other violations of cultural rights are harder to protect, especially those related to indigenous folklore, songs and oratory. For instance, international copyright laws do little to support the Brazilian Suya community's law-in-practice that a song belongs to the person who first sings it out loud.

Policies of assimilation also threaten indigenous language and heritage. Until 1906, the Japanese Government denied even the existence of Ainu people, which had formed a distinct society and culture in parts of Japan for thousands of years. The result: the unwritten Ainu language is dying and a fraction of the Ainu people know their native culture, which was built around rites, such as bear hunts and salmon fishing, both of which are now banned.

The cultural quandary of indigenous people was summed up for the Assembly by Bimal Bhikkhu, a Buddhist monk from the Chakma tribes of the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, when he noted that indigenous people do not want to become "a museum for anthropologists"; instead, they want the right to educate their children in order to achieve the "harmonious development of the human potential".

Indigenous knowledge

Most of the 7,000 natural compounds used in modern medicine have been employed by traditional healers for centuries.

For example, pharmaceutical companies are working to develop a new anticoagulant based on the *tikiuba* plant used by the Uru-eu-Wau-Wau people of the Brazilian Amazon. They are also testing for potential drugs, based on the discovery by the nomadic Punans of Indonesia that the root of the *jileng* plant could be boiled and used as a cure for tuberculosis.

However, the valuable contributions of indigenous people—who have already identified the species for medicinal use, as well as their locations and methods for collecting and storing them—are typically dismissed as tradition or folklore.

Similarly, indigenous agriculturalists have contributed greatly to crop productivity. North American indigenous people developed improved strains of maize, potatoes, manioc, sweet potatoes, peanuts and beans.

The UN system has taken a leading role in promoting the intellectual property rights of indigenous people. The International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN included in 1991 an annex acknowledging that farmers around the world have "conserved, nurtured, improved and made available plant genetic resources" and that these local technologies complement more advanced technologies in the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources. The Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants—an intergovernmental association linked to the World Intellectual Property Organization—has also worked to protect the rights of breeders of new plant varieties.

There are signs that pharmaceutical companies are growing to realize their obligation to provide reciprocal benefits. One such indication came from a California company—Shaman Pharmaceuticals—which wrote of indigenous people: "They have the knowledge that will help bring new medicine to our global pharmacopoeia. It is time to recognize the gift they have provided to the world." ■

North America: Sacred freedoms

Native Americans have struggled against discrimination and persecution for centuries as continuing waves of immigration from foreign lands, starting with the European explorers in the sixteenth century, have effectively razed more than 10,000 years of indigenous culture. Not only are the so-called "Indians" of the United States and Canada fighting to reclaim native territories, they are also demanding that their age-old customs and beliefs be respected and protected by a Government that would guarantee their religious rights and freedom.

Towards this end, a coalition of Native American leaders and environmental human rights and religious groups have lobbied for passage of a bill to ensure Native American access to sacred objects, use of substances vital to their ceremonies, and rights to protect sacred sites.

Unfortunately, the qualities that make certain sites sacred—beautiful, untouched wilderness—also make them attractive to developers who consistently fight for the right to exploit native territories for tourism and natural resources.

Under such pressure, existing laws, such as the 1978 American Indian Religious Freedom Act, often fail to secure religious rights of indigenous people.

UN Photo 182262/E. Debebe

A Native American addressing the General Assembly at the launching of the Year.

Protecting such sites is part of the quest of Native Americans to renew their culture and regain the way in which they lived before people came to the "New World". "Freedom had been a way of life", said Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Onondaga Nation, at the General Assembly on 10 December 1992. "Ceremonies had been held to honour the life-giving forces of the world. Generosity and equal sharing, respect, care and love for elders and children had been the basic teachings."

HUMAN RIGHTS

Second World Conference to convene in Vienna

An agenda for action which could dramatically increase the effectiveness of human rights into the next century is expected to be adopted at the upcoming World Conference on Human Rights, which is to convene in Vienna from 14 to 25 June.

The gathering will be attended by thousands of delegates representing Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from around the globe. Indeed, NGOs with expertise in human rights and development, which will be accorded observer status at the Conference, are expected to make a significant contribution both to the deliberations of the Conference and to its final document.

The Conference is being held some 25 years after the International Conference on Human Rights in Tehran assessed the progress achieved under the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and laid the foundation for subsequent work in the field of human rights at the international level.

Intense negotiations

The two-week event is the culmination of a two-year preparatory process, the final stage of which took place in Geneva in April and May 1993 at the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee. Intense negotiations there resulted in the adoption by consensus of a draft document which will serve as the basis for the action programme to be considered by the World Conference. The first three Preparatory Committee meetings were held in 1992.

A draft document adopted by the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee—outlining a wide range of human rights issues of concern to the international community—contains a programme of action in the field of human rights for the years ahead.

UN Photo 175353/M. Grant

Ibrahima Fall, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Secretary-General of the World Conference.

The draft reaffirms the universality and indivisibility of human rights, but specifies that the "exercise of any human right must not be denied because the full enjoyment of other rights has not been achieved". It further states that "it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms".

The Conference agenda calls for it to commemorate the International Year of the World's Indigenous People (being held this year), and to hold a general debate on progress made in the field of human rights since the Universal Declaration's adoption and on identifying obstacles to further progress in that area and ways in which they could be overcome.

Consideration will be given to the relationship between development, democracy and the universal enjoyment of all human rights, keeping in view the interrelationship and indivisibility of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights. Contemporary trends in, and new challenges to, the full realization of all human rights of women and men, including those of persons belonging to vulnerable groups, will also be dealt with.

The Conference is expected to make recommendations for strengthening international cooperation in the field of human rights in conformity with the Charter and with international human rights instruments. Recommendations will also be made for ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues; enhancing the effectiveness of UN activities and mechanisms; and securing resources for UN activities in the area of human rights.

Proposals before the Conference include giving consideration to the creation of a UN Permanent Commissioner for Human Rights and an internatioanl Court for Human Rights.

Draft document

The draft document adopted by the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee is closely based on declarations adopted by three regional meetings—an African meeting in Tunis (2-6 November 1992), a meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean in San José, Costa Rica (18-22 January 1993) and an Asian meeting in Bangkok (29 March-2 April 1993)—as well as on contributions made by Governments. It also takes into account suggestions made by intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, as well as studies prepared by independent experts. A paper submitted by the Centre for Human Rights served as a "working tool" for drafting the final document.

The document was adopted "ad referendum" (meaning it can be changed and amended) by the 154 Member States of the UN which actively took part in the work of the Preparatory Committee's fourth session. Senior Government officials will hold informal consultations in Vienna from 9 to 11 June in order to review those parts of the document considered to need further deliberation.

"Even though some disagreements still exist, the importance of this meeting in Geneva is that from the many documents submitted at its outset, one unique human rights draft docucment has emerged", said Ibrahima Fall, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Secretary-General of the World Conference. "We have had a positive consensus on key issues such as protection from torture and the protection of women, the disabled, minorities and the world's indigenous peoples. That is one of the successes of this meeting."

The draft document stresses that democracy, development and respect for human rights are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. It reaffirms the rights of minorities, and states that persons belonging to minorities have the "right to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion and to use their own language in private and in public". It calls for the elimination of gender-based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation, including those resulting from cultural prejudice.

Rights of the vulnerable

The document attaches great importance to the rights of children and of groups who have been rendered vulnerable, including migrant workers. One principle calls for the punishment of perpetrators of such "abhorrent practices" as genocide, "ethnic cleansing" and systematic rape of women in war situations. Another principle states that States are "duty-bound" to ensure that education is aimed at strengthening respect for human rights.

The draft programme of action in the field of human rights for the years ahead describes concrete steps which States can take in order to improve the enjoyment of human rights by their citizens. It also defines the role of the UN, specialized agencies and other institutions involved in the protection of human rights, and calls for increased cooperation and coordination among them.

WORLD
CONFERENCE
ON
HUMAN
RIGHTS

The programme calls for action to eliminate racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance. It urges the international community to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to minorities. It also calls for stepped up action against torture. It strongly recommends that the UN assign a significantly increased proportion of its existing budgetary, material and personnel resources to the UN human rights programmes and the Centre for Human Rights.

The programme urges Governments and the UN to accord priority to the full and equal enjoyment by women of all human rights. It calls on the UN to encourage the universal ratification by the year 2000 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It also urges Governments, and regional and international organizations to facilitate the access of women to decision-making posts and their greater participation in the decision-making process. It encourages further steps within the UN Secretariat to appoint and promote women staff members.

Regional declarations

The 30-point "Declaration of Bangkok" stresses the need to consider human rights in national and regional contexts and emphasizes the principles of respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs.

The 31-point San José Declaration emphasizes that the right to development in a healthy and ecologically balanced environment was a universal and inalienable human right. It states that the advancement of representative democracy was the best guarantee of the effective enjoyment of all human rights.

The 11-point Tunis declaration emphasizes that: human rights, development and international peace are interdependent. The African countries cite as particular threats to human rights in their region "internal tensions deriving from the failure to meet the basic needs of populations" and "racism, particularly in new forms, extremism and fanaticism, whether of religious or other origin".

"Political freedom when not accompanied by respect for economic, social and political rights is precarious", says the Tunis declaration, which adds: "Lasting progress towards the implementation of human rights implies, at the national level, effective development policies and, at the international level, more equitable economic relations, as well as a favourable economic environment."

Global plan on child labour adopted

Third Racism Decade asked

Adoption of a Programme of Action for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour was a highlight of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights (1 February-12 March, Geneva). The new 39-paragraph global plan of action calls for special attention for the most vulnerable categories of children—street children and children of immigrants, refugees, minorities or indigenous groups.

UNI [illegible]/766/84/H. Larson

The new plan calls for special attention to vulnerable youth, such as those of migrant workers in New Delhi.

Formulated by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities—a subsidiary body of the Commission—the document calls for increased bilateral and multilateral resources to address "one of the prime causes of exploitation of child labour, which is poverty".

In adopting 114 texts—98 resolutions and 16 decisions—the 53-member body continued its work towards monitoring the implementation of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other important international instruments dealing with civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Four newly-appointed Special Rapporteurs—Alejandro Artucio Rodriguez of Uruguay, Gaspar Biro of Hungary, Rene Felber of Switzerland and Abid Hussain of India—will report on the human rights situations in Equatorial Guinea, Sudan and the occupied Arab territories, respectively, and on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. A fifth appointee—Robert Dossou of Benin—will report on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The Commission also proposed that a Special Representative of the Secretary-General be named for Cambodia to, among other things, assist the Government in the promotion and protection of human rights.

A third UN Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination was called for, to begin in 1993. Two previous Decades had been declared—the first was launched in 1973. The Commission also recommended that the General Assembly declare a decade for human rights education.

An independent expert is to be named to assist the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia in re-establishing human rights and the rule of law in that country, including creating a democratic constitution and holding periodic and general elections by secret ballot.

The Commission expressed its views on the deteriorating Yugoslav situation and decided to send human rights monitors to Iraq.

The International Year for the World's Indigenous People, being celebrated this year, was commemorated on 17 February. Rigoberta Menchu, a member of the Quiche tribe of Guatemala who won the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize, called on the Commission and the UN to take practical measures to support the human rights and cultures of indigenous people, and to provide them greater official access to UN bodies and activities.

Work proceeded on draft declarations on indigenous rights and on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Further negotiations took place on a draft optional protocol to the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, based on a Costa Rican proposal aimed at facilitating visits to places of detention to prevent torture from taking place.

The Commission also established a 15-member working group to identify obstacles to the realization of the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development.

On 8 March—International Women's Day—the Commission condemned all acts of violence and violations of human rights directed specifically against women, including those occurring in situations of armed conflict. It decided to consider in 1994 the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on violence against women.

Children: Their Rights

The new Programme of Action states that child labour is exploited worldwide and poverty is often the main culprit. Action should first be directed against the most dangerous form of child labour and work by children under 10 years of age, with a view to the total elimination of child labour. High priority should be given to eliminate the "most odious or degrading" forms of child exploitation, such as prostitution, the sale of children, enforced begging and debt bondage, it states.

Specifically, the Programme suggests:

- Information campaigns to raise awareness of the problem, targeting public sectors using child labour, such as agriculture and domestic service, as well as children themselves to inform them of their rights;
- Education, as "one of the most effective measures to prevent child labour", and literacy programmes;
- National legislation to prohibit dangerous or high-risk employment, and to prescribe penalties for offending employers, which should concentrate on cases of "flagrant crime", such as the sale of children, child prostitution and under-age maidservants in a position of servitude;
- Ratification of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 1973 Minimum Age Convention of the International Labour Organisation;
- Availability of a sufficient number of work inspectors to deal with exploitation of child labour; and
- Creation of an international child welfare fund.

In other texts on children, the Commission:

- Urged States parties to take immediate steps to ensure strict compliance with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Called on Governments to investigate and punish all offences against street children, stating its deep concern over the "growing number of street children worldwide and the squalid conditions in which these children are forced to live";
- Urged an effective multidisciplinary approach to the problems of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. The business sector should adopt a code of conduct for child protection with a view to preventing those problems; and
- Expressed deep concern and indignation at the serious consequences of armed conflicts on children, who were often among the main victims of the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines.

A potpourri of action

In a resolution on human rights and bioethics, the Commission invited Governments and international bodies to report on activities being conducted "to ensure that the life sciences develop in a manner respectful of human rights", and on the possible establishment of national consultative bodies, with a view to promoting exchanges of experience between such institutions.

States were called upon to ensure that their laws, policies and practices, introduced in the context of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), respected human rights standards and also ensure the full enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights by people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or AIDS, their families and those in any way associated with them, and people presumed to be at risk of infection. States were urged to include in their AIDS programmes measures to combat social stigmatization and discrimination, and take steps to develop the supportive social environment necessary for effective AIDS prevention and care.

Governments were urged to eliminate the practice of forced evictions, confer legal security of tenure to all persons currently threatened with forced eviction, and provide immediate compensation or alternative accommodation or land to persons and communities that had been forcibly evicted.

The importance of alleviating the debt and debt-service burdens of developing countries in the framework of the realization of economic, social and cultural rights was stressed. Debt payments should not take precedence over the basic rights of the people of debtor countries to food, shelter, clothing, employment, health services and a healthy environment.

Country situations

The Commission reviewed specific human rights situations in more than 20 countries and territories, and dealt with alleged violations in southern Africa and the Middle East. Action was taken on Afghanistan, Albania, Cambodia, China, Cuba, East Timor, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia, Guatemala, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Romania, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Western Sahara, former Yugoslavia and Zaire. Statements were issued on Latvia, Estonia, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka.

Among other things, the Commission passed a "no-action" motion, proposed by China, on a draft critical of the human rights situation in that country. Under the draft text, the Commission would have expressed concern over continuing reports of violations of human rights, and China would have been called upon to ensure the observance of human rights and improve the administration of justice. China said the text was an attempt to interfere in its internal affairs. There was no excuse for Western countries to accuse China on human rights.

Cuba was called upon to permit the Special Rapporteur to carry out his mandate in full, in particular by allowing him to visit Cuba. Particular concern was expressed over Cuba's "mounting intolerance" for freedom of speech and assembly. Cuba said the Commission had grossly distorted principles for examining human rights, based on the United States' attitude towards Cuba.

> **"Concern and alarm were expressed for human rights situations in more than 20 countries and territories"**

The Commission urged the Government of Georgia and the authorities in Abkhazia to intensify efforts to ensure that the human rights of all inhabitants of Georgia were fully respected. The Government was encouraged to continue the democratization process and to guarantee and ensure the full enjoyment of human rights.

The Commission expressed deep concern at continuing reports of human rights violations in Iran, including increased use of the death penalty. Iran should comply with international human rights instruments. Iran said its cooperation with the Commission had reached the highest stage, adding that Western sponsors of the text had been incited by what they believed to be an increase in the number of executions.

The Commission strongly condemned massive violations of human rights by Iraq, which should release immediately all persons arbitrarily arrested and detained. It urged an independent commission of inquiry to look into the fate of disappeared persons. Special alarm was expressed at the repressive policies and practices directed against Kurds, the Shia communities and the civilian population in southern Iraq. Iraq should remove existing embargoes and help provide relief to those in need throughout Iraq.

Iraq said the text was a political document aimed at dividing the country into small provinces based on religion, and its basic character was one of colonialism. The real crime was the blockade imposed on all Iraqis by the West, a blockade denying Iraqis the very right to life.

The Commission deplored the continued seriousness of the human rights situation in Myanmar, particularly that some political leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, remained deprived of their liberty. Myanmar said the text was one-sided and failed to meet the standards of impartiality and non-selectivity subscribed to by the Commission.

UN Photo 182821

Former President of Costa Rica and Nobel Peace Prize winner Oscar Arias Sanchez *(third from left)* called for the release of 1991 Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma at a Commission meeting on 22 February.

Addressing exploitation

UN Photo 182782/M. Grant

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali receiving the Golden Medal for the Protection of Human Rights from Vagn Jespersen, President of the Federation des Corps et Associations Consulaires.

The Commission expressed deep concern at the serious human rights violations in the Sudan and the Government was urged to respect human rights fully. The Special Rapporteur was asked to establish direct contact with the Government and the Sudanese people and report to the Commission in 1994 on the human rights situation. Sudan said the decision to adjourn debate under the confidential review procedure had greatly harmed Sudan and could reflect negatively on the peace process already under way.

The Commission deplored the serious obstacles standing in the way of the democratic transition in Togo and encouraged full respect for human rights. It deplored the use of violence by the armed forces against peaceful demonstrators.

The Commission condemned in the strongest terms all violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia by all sides to the conflict. It recognized that the primary responsibility for most of those violations was borne by the leadership in the territory under the control of Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, the commanders of Serb paramilitary forces, and political and military leaders in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Attacks on the UN Protection Force, resulting in casualties and deaths of UN personnel, were condemned.

The Security Council was invited to consider establishing a UN observer mission to investigate and report on alleged human rights violations in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina. Concern was expressed at the Special Rapporteur's report on the human rights situation in Croatia, with respect to cases of minorities who had been refused citizenship and to instances of strict control by the Government over radio and television.

The Commission strongly condemned the abhorrent practice of rape and abuse of women and children in the former Yugoslavia, which constituted a war crime. UN Member States were urged to take action to bring about an end to that despicable practice and exert every effort to bring to justice all those individuals directly or indirectly involved.

The Commission deplored the continuing serious violations of human rights in Zaire, particularly the practice of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary detention and incommunicado detention.

The representative of the Zairean transitional Government congratulated the Commission for the text, which took off the cloak of secrecy and would advance the cause of human rights. Citizens were living under a dictatorial Government and the situation had been made much worse by pillaging and looting and economic collapse. A country once rich had been reduced to being an international beggar. Democratization must be allowed to take place: pressure must be applied until a favourable solution was found.

Other action

In other action, the Commission:

- Decided that Judith Sefi Attah will report annually on the transition to democracy in South Africa.
- Welcomed the creation of an international mechanism to promote cooperation with respect to the status of persons with disabilities, and encouraged implementation of standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons.
- Invited States to introduce into their rules and practices regarding human rights and forensic science the international standards set forth in the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions, as well as the model autopsy protocol set forth in the *Manual on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions*; and
- Invited Governments to take measures to prevent illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products, and urged support for African and other developing countries in implementing existing instruments governing the transboundary movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes. ■

Draft declaration against violence approved by Commission

A draft declaration on the elimination of violence against women was unanimously approved by the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-seventh session (17-26 March, Vienna). It was among 13 resolutions approved by the 45-member Commission on issues ranging from women's role in development to preparations for the 1995 World Conference on Women.

The non-binding declaration, which is to be submitted to the forty-eighth General Assembly for adoption later this year, states that violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of equality, development and peace—the three main goals of the UN to advance the status of women. It contains a comprehensive definition of violence against women and identifies the responsibilities of States and organizations in applying remedial measures.

That definition includes physical and psychological violence within the family, marital rape and female genital mutilation, as well as sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in schools. States are called on not to "invoke any custom, tradition or religious or other consideration" to avoid their obligations to implement the declaration.

Rape: A war against women

Reports of systematic rape and abuse of women in the former Yugoslavia were featured prominently in debate, with Austria stating that a "war against women" on a hitherto unimaginable scale was taking place a few hundred miles from the venue of the Commission's meeting.

In a resolution, the Commission strongly condemned the "abhorrent practices of rape and abuse of women and children", which constituted a "war crime". The text accused Serbian forces of using systematic rape as a "weapon of war" in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Croatia.

The Russian Federation, abstaining from the vote, said that a tribunal was needed to try rape cases in the former Yugoslavia, but the text had to be even-handed and should not only emphasize the atrocities of Serbian forces against Muslim women.

Concerns about violence against women were also echoed in the opening statement of Commission Chairman Merwat Tallawi of Egypt, who said that a common trend resulting from the radical changes and instability in the world was the deterioration in the status of women. Women were the first victims of economic recessions or armed conflict, she said. Therefore, women's solidarity could not be allowed to weaken.

World Conference in Beijing

By a text on the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in China's capital city of Beijing in September 1995, the Secretary-General was requested to prepare a draft "platform for action" in line with the Conference theme: "Action for Equality, Development and Peace".

Governments were urged to foster women's full participation in the elaboration and execution of development policies, and the international community was asked to provide adequate support for developing countries' efforts in that regard.

The United States cast the sole vote against the text, citing disagreement

UN Photos

Concerned about violence

on a provision calling for support for developing countries' efforts in "reducing the negative effects of the external debt burden, structural adjustment policies and adverse terms of trade, with a view to integrating women in mainstream development".

The newly-established Commission on Sustainable Development and other relevant organizations were urged to develop mechanisms to ensure support for the role of women in sustainable development, both as agents and beneficiaries, as set forth in Agenda 21—the action programme adopted by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development.

Priority themes

The Commission had adopted three priority themes for discussion: women and legal literacy; women in extreme poverty; and women's participation in the peace process.

By one text, States are called on to promote the education of women on their legal rights under international conventions and national law. On women in extreme poverty, Governments and international organizations are urged to examine more closely the structural causes of poverty. Governments should take into account the specific requirements of women when formulating strategies to eradicate poverty, it is specified.

In a report on women and the peace process *(E/CN.6/1993/4)*, the Secretary-General discussed, among other things, the subject of women in the military, suggesting that the UN set an example by using men and women together in peace-keeping operations.

Women and human rights

The Commission urged the World Conference on Human Rights to consider women's rights and concerns.

In a text on women and children under apartheid, the international community was asked to support the critical process under way in South Africa. The UN Centre against Apartheid was asked to create aid programmes for South African women.

By a vote of 28 to 1 (United States), with 9 abstentions, the Commission strongly condemned the continuing grave violations of fundamental human rights of Palestinians, particularly Palestinian women and children.

Women at the UN

The Commission called for the improvement of women's status in the UN Secretariat and asked States to identify and submit more women candidates for high-level posts.

In connection with its role in monitoring the implementation of the 1985 Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000, the Commission called on States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to reconsider their reservations to it.

Another text called for strengthening the UN Division for the Advancement of Women. The Secretary-General was asked to ensure that the new UN institutional arrangements in the economic and social fields would help advance the status of women. ■

Committee considers women's rights in marriage

States parties to the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women were urged to withdraw their reservations regarding women's rights in marriage and family relations, under a draft recommendation substantively approved by the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its twelfth session (Vienna, 18 January-5 February).

The 23-member Committee, which is the monitoring body of the Convention, voiced alarm over the number and extent of the reservations of States to some Convention articles, especially articles 9, 15, and 16, which deal with nationality, legal capacity, and marriage and family relations.

It was recommended that States discourage the giving of dowry and the practice of polygamy, and that they set a minimum age at which men and women may marry. States were also urged to guarantee access to family planning, as well as the rights to choose freely a family name, profession or occupation, and to own, inherit, manage and dispose of property.

The Committee sought ways to harmonize its work with that of other human rights bodies, in part for the preparation for the World Conference on Human Rights in June 1993. It recommended that the Conference take steps to ensure that women's rights be put on an equal footing with the rights of men, and called for gender-specific information to be fully integrated into the implementation of all human rights instruments.

During its three-week session, the Committee discussed reports on the situation of women in 13 countries: Bangladesh, France, Guyana, Iraq, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Romania, Rwanda, Sweden, United Kingdom and Yemen.

The Committee also heard the status of preparations for the observance of the 1994 International Year of the Family, and decided to devote its next session to preparations for two upcoming conferences: the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development and the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women.

UN Photo 159532/J. Bleigtrau

Draft rules on disability aim to equalize opportunities

The Commission for Social Development has proposed draft standard rules to assist States in equalizing opportunities for people with disabilities.

The new rules on disability, to be formally adopted by the General Assembly, would give disabled people the same rights and obligations as others. While not compulsory, they are intended to guide States in formulating their disability policies, as well as help the disabled to push for their rights and seek policy reforms.

The 32-member Commission, in approving 10 resolutions at its thirty-third session (8-17 February, Vienna), also proposed an agenda for the World Summit for Social Development, scheduled to be held in early 1995, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

In other texts, the Commission urged Governments to intensify preparations for the International Year of the Family (1994), declaring 15 May as the International Day of Families, and approved texts on the monitoring of international plans and programmes on youth and the elderly.

Featured prominently in debate was the *1993 Report on the World Social Situation (see story, page 62)*.

The Commission, which meets every two years, advises the Economic and Social Council on policies to promote social progress and practical measures for social welfare and community development.

Equal rights for disabled

The draft rules on disability outline the preconditions for equal participation in society, including awareness-raising about the rights and needs of disabled people, and the provision of adequate medical care and rehabilitation services. Target areas for equal participation include: access to the physical environment; education, employment and social security; and recreation, religious and cultural activities.

The draft rules also propose monitoring mechanisms and implementation measures to achieve their objectives, including national legislation.

In other action, the Commission requested development of a plan of action to implement the long-term strategy of the 1982 World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons. A framework for such a plan was suggested at an expert group meeting in Vancouver, Canada, in April 1992.

The Commission also appealed to all governments to observe the International Day of Disabled Persons (3 December) as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/3.

Promotion of full participation of the disabled within the UN system was also urged.

Agenda for 1995 Summit

The proposed agenda for the 1995 World Summit for Social Development is to centre on three core issues: alleviation of poverty; expansion of employment; and enhancement of social integration.

The Summit is to foster greater understanding of the importance of social development, highlighting the need for integration of social and economic development. It would express a shared worldwide commitment to put the needs of people at the centre of development and of international cooperation as a major priority of international relations.

Equalizing opportunity

The Commission, stressing that welfare provisions should not just aim at protecting people, but also help them to reduce their vulnerability, called for: decentralizing decision-making and finding cost-effective programmes to ensure full participation of all people in society; monitoring the impact of policies to eliminate poverty; and improving education and employment opportunities to enhance human development.

In debate, most delegates supported the Summit's focus on poverty reduction, generation of productive employment, and promotion of greater social cohesion. The Summit, which many delegates called timely and important, should take a practical approach, avoiding political and philosophical debate.

Commission Chairman Juan Carlos Beltramino of Argentina supported a more practical approach to social programmes, as the present ones often did not meet expectations. Social problems, such as poverty, unemployment and inequality, were growing and quick social changes often had caught officials off guard, he said.

Economic gains of social policies

The interconnection between economic development and social progress was also discussed in the Secretary-General's report *(A/48/56)* on implementation of the 1987 Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future. To include social policies in societal management strategies was a "prerequisite to achievement of many economic goals", he stated, and this had been acknowledged increasingly by Governments.

Innovative approaches were favoured, the report said. There was broad agreement on some essential factors for an effective social policy, including: considering disadvantaged people not as burdens upon society but as unused human resources; strengthening social welfare services to support individual and community efforts to overcome dysfunctional conditions; and strengthening the public sector in the areas of information collection, evaluation of innovative measures and policy-oriented research.

UN Photo 153470/J. Isaac

The priority theme of the 1993 session was the social consequences of population growth and changing social conditions, with emphasis on the family.

Family issues

The priority theme of the Commission's 1993 session was "Social consequences of population growth and changing social conditions with particular emphasis on the family".

An expert group meeting convened in September 1992 had described the role of the family as including: fulfilling the tasks of procreation and socialization; contributing to the economic well-being of societies and individuals; and providing social and emotional support basic to the security of individual members.

Henryk J. Sokalski, Director of the Division for Social Development, told the Commission that innovative approaches to providing social security might help encourage a change in traditional attitudes dealing with fertility and family size. Also, another way to facilitate such a change was the expectation that all citizens enjoy full participation in the democratic process.

Youth, ageing

In a resolution on the tenth anniversary in 1995 of the observance of the International Youth Year and on a draft world programme of action for youth towards the year 2000 and beyond, States and organizations were urged to prepare national programmes of action in the context of preparations for the anniversary. The occasion was to serve as an opportunity for a fundamental reassessment of the role and purpose of UN activities in the field of youth.

Regarding implementation of the 1982 International Plan of Action on Ageing, the Commission called on the Secretary-General to maintain the integrity and identity of the UN programme on ageing, as well as the Trust Fund for Ageing, to ensure full implementation of the Plan of Action. The Secretary-General was also to draft a conceptual framework for a programme for the observance of the International Year of Older Persons in 1999. The Commission requested that the Year be renamed the International Year of the Elderly. ■

Assessing social welfare:

A mixed success

UN Photo 36252

Improving the social welfare of mankind has seen mixed success in recent years, according to the *1993 Report on the World Social Situation*. Prepared every four years by the UN Department of Economic and Social Development, it provides a background on major issues to be addressed by the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

On the positive side, the end of the cold war potentially freed vast resources to be diverted from armaments to social programmes. Economic expansion in China and other Asian countries showed that developing countries could achieve quick economic and social progress.

At the same time, the political and economic transition process in Eastern European and former Soviet States caused great social disruptions, exacerbated in some parts by ethnic conflicts. The gap between rich and poor countries widened.

Some of the main issues and trends covered by the world social situation Report are outlined below, starting with the basic necessities of human existence and ending with the elusive concept of quality of life.

Rich and poor: A widening gap

"The outstanding economic and social problem in the world is that of poverty", stated Ji Chaozhu, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development, in his preface to the Report. An estimated 1.1 billion people—one fifth of mankind—are considered to be poor, in the sense of being unable to afford a minimum adequate diet and other bare necessities of life.

The Report states that there was a "widespread impression" that inequality had increased during the 1980s between developing and developed countries. In 1981, the per capita output in the latter was 20 times that of developing countries, but at decade's end that figure had risen to 22. Not all developing countries had the same experience: those in South and East Asia enjoyed fast growth, while those of other regions sharply decelerated.

The economic transformation of the societies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union was bound to "make their income and wealth distribution more uneven than before", even if social transfers to more vulnerable groups had increased, the Report stated.

Among suggestions to alleviate poverty worldwide are: more equitable distribution of land resources, employment creation, and improvement in economic and social conditions of women, as the burden of poverty falls heavily on them.

Half a billion hungry

The World Food Council in 1992—17 years after setting a target to end world hunger within two decades—estimated that 550 million people in 1990 still suffered from chronic hunger, and millions of others were vulnerable to periods of hunger each year.

The food situation in East and South Asia improved, even though the region was still home to almost 60 per cent of the world's hungry. The largest increase in hunger was in Africa—home to 30 per cent of the hungry—where high population growth, poor economic performance and man-made and natural disasters were

Assessing quality of life

blamed. The political and economic changes in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union "put millions at risk of hunger, as the accustomed social safety nets broke down".

At both national and international levels, fresh measures were taken to improve food security and eliminate hunger and malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiency diseases, particularly those associated with deficiencies of vitamin A, iodine and iron.

New health concerns

Despite higher life expectancy and progress in medical technology, several major concerns of public health emerged over the past few years, the Report states. The acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) pandemic raged across much of Africa and threatened to balloon in Latin America and Asia as well, after its initial spread in Europe and North America. Malaria re-emerged as a major health threat in parts of Africa and Asia. Cholera broke out in parts of Latin America where sanitary conditions had deteriorated. Industrial pollution of air and water was a serious health concern, most prominently in the former Soviet Union and in rural areas of central European countries. Rising health care costs were seen as a growing problem that had to be curbed.

Human life expectancy rose on average to 63.9 years in 1985-1990, a gain of 3.5 years over 1975-1980. The gap between developing and developed countries in life expectancy and infant mortality narrowed. But the "most significant public health success in the past decade" was the dramatic increase in immunization against diseases, including diptheria, tetanus and measles.

Housing, education

Citing, among other things, higher interest rates, increased land prices and rapid urbanization, the Report said that housing conditions in most countries had deteriorated in recent years. In overcrowded cities in developing countries, drinking water supplies, sanitation and other critical public services had been "tested beyond their limits".

While the housing situation varies in different parts of the world, "all countries have a number of problems in common: distortions that raise prices and reduce access to housing, rigidities in access to housing which hinder labour mobility, and insufficient housing facilities to meet the needs of the urban poor".

Many developing and developed countries sought to reorient their education policies in the 1980s. Fast technological changes made it imperative to put greater emphasis on mathematics and science, and create closer ties between formal education and workplaces. In addition, the expansion of primary education remained one of the most important objectives of education policy in most developing countries.

About 948 million adults 15 years or older worldwide were illiterate in 1990. While there was a relative decline in illiteracy, the absolute number of illiterates increased due to population growth. It is "especially important to provide females with increased access to education", the Report states, as illiteracy is almost twice as high among women as men in developing countries.

Population: A central issue

Population growth remains at the centre of social issues, from nutrition to education to increasing migration and refugee flows, the Report declares. The annual addition of approximately 90 million people—93 per cent in developing countries—limited per capita gain of economic growth and added to the strain on social services.

Relatively fast population growth has attracted renewed attention due to concerns about the sustainability of economic development. Large and growing populations driven by poverty may pose a threat of despoiling the environment irrevocably.

The main cause for that decline is attributed to the "rapid spread of contraception", the Report states. While less than 10 per cent of married couples in developing countries used contraception in the 1960s, 48 per cent did so in 1987. Better health services and education for women could bring fertility rates further down. A study of 30 developing countries showed that women with seven or more years of schooling gave birth to 3.9 children on average, while those with no formal education bore 6.9.

Unemployment: New insights needed

Unemployment and low-productivity employment are "among the outstanding economic and social problems in all parts of the world", the Report states. High levels of unemployment continue in developed countries. Developing countries have failed to create enough new jobs to keep up with rapid population growth. The biggest change in recent years, however, is in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, where unemployment increased 40-fold in 1991 and 1992 during radical economic transformations.

It was estimated that economic growth in the developing countries had to be 6 to 9 per cent a year to accommodate a 3 per cent annual increase in the labour force—a goal which very few countries could hope for. A substantial share of employment in developing countries was of low productivity, in other words "disguised unemployment".

Although there were "no such fresh insights into the problem as were presented in the 1930s", policies to combat unemployment were suggested. Government policies should target both agriculture and the informal sectors where there is the majority of low-productivity employment. Governments should encourage and even undertake investments in research, human and physical capital, infrastructure and institutions, the Report states.

Changing role of government

Government expenditures on social services faced great strains in developed and developing countries during the 1980s, due to slow economic growth and often high interest payments on huge debts, the Report stated. Many Governments subsequently tried to increase the efficiency of their social spending, targeting the neediest groups.

In most developing countries, "secondary education and hospital-based health care receive considerably higher levels of subsidies than primary education and primary health care", the Report declared. As a result, primary health care and education "clearly emerged as a priority for State spending". Changes such as moving from expensive general food subsidies to targeted support of only the needy could, however, prove to be politically difficult for both developing countries and the economies in transition.

A new development philosophy

A "new global development philosophy", a result of "some painful lessons", was emerging, the Secretary-General stated in an annex to the Report *(E/1993/50 Add.1)*, which contained a review of the implementation of the 1969 Declaration on Social Progress and Development.

The enthusiasm for nationalization and central planning had waned in most regions, it was reported, as had skepticism about the role of markets. The importance of technology to the development process was generally recognized.

> **"The grievances of people who have satisfied all their objective needs seem trifling to people who do not have enough to eat"**

This emerging ideology rested, the Report said, on many important elements: "a recognition of the priority of human rights over the rights of a collective—be this a community, nation or ethnic group; a belief that a human being and his needs have to be the focus and target of the development process, not the other way around; and the view that Earth is a common habitat which has to be protected and preserved".

While it was too early to say to what extent this philosophy was more effective than previous approaches, it constituted a "distinct set of development priorities, principles, goals and means of implementation".

Measuring quality of life

Admitting that there was no easy or objective way to measure "quality of life", the Report nevertheless offered some discussion of that concept. Looking at life expectancy and income, there had clearly been substantial progress in the industrialized countries and many developing countries.

Improvements in consumption, health and education were, however, "not matched by corresponding increases in level of psychological satisfaction and sense of well-being".

In industrialized countries, an increase in imprisonment, homicides, suicides, drug abuse and divorce accompanied material progress. "The incidence of severe depression has grown substantially, especially among young people", it was stated. Those social ills seemed to be especially concentrated among the urban poor.

Economic growth and urbanization did not come without cost in the developing countries either, as seen by a high incidence of single-parent families and homeless street children in third world cities and high urban homicide and crime rates, especially where poverty and scarce job opportunities coincided with "conspicuous consumption".

Despite the litany of social ills associated with economic growth, the report warns against dismissing the value of material progress.

"The grievances of people who have satisfied all of their objective needs seem trifling to people who do not have enough to eat. To equate, within the hierarchy of human needs, the whines of the materially well-off with the anguished cries of the poor is to trivialize the importance of what is basic and in urgent need of attention", the Report concluded. ■

DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Preparations start for Habitat II

Preparations for the UN Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) were launched at the organizational session of its Preparatory Committee (3-5 March, New York). Habitat II's major objective is to address issues in the context of sustainable development. The Conference is expected to formulate a global plan of action to improve people's living environment for the first two decades of the next century, building on the legacy of the first Habitat conference, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976.

UN Photo 182638

Preparatory Committee meeting in progress.

Committee Chairman Robert Lloyd Wenman of Canada said in an opening statement that Habitat II should consider adopting a plan of action based on an "enabling" approach, one involving self-improvement. There had also been broad agreement that the Committee should review the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, technology issues in light of relevant provisions of "Agenda 21", and regulatory regimes for housing, building and land-use management.

World income stagnating

After falling for three successive years, the level of world real per capita income will stagnate in 1993, according to an expert group meeting of economic forecasters from 50 countries (New York, 10-13 March). A moderate growth in North America would be largely offset by a spreading recession in Europe and a weak economy in Japan, the experts said. The countries of Central Europe and the States of the former Soviet Union were expected to experience a contraction of about 12 per cent. Growth prospects had begun to improve in a number of Latin American countries, but most of those in sub-Saharan Africa were expected to continue experiencing stagnant per capita income in 1993 and 1994. Developing countries in Asia and the Pacific were to continue to grow faster than the world average in 1993, and in the Middle East, oil exporters were expected to experience strong growth.

New UNCTAD bodies meet

Less than a year after the eighth session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VIII) launched a major institutional reform, all its newly-created intergovernmental bodies had held their first meetings by early February 1993. The new units include working groups and committees on: comparative experiences in privatization; expansion of trading opportunities for developing countries; economic cooperation among developing countries; poverty alleviation; interrelationship between investment and technology transfer; and services.

Guidelines adopted for Disaster Reduction Conference

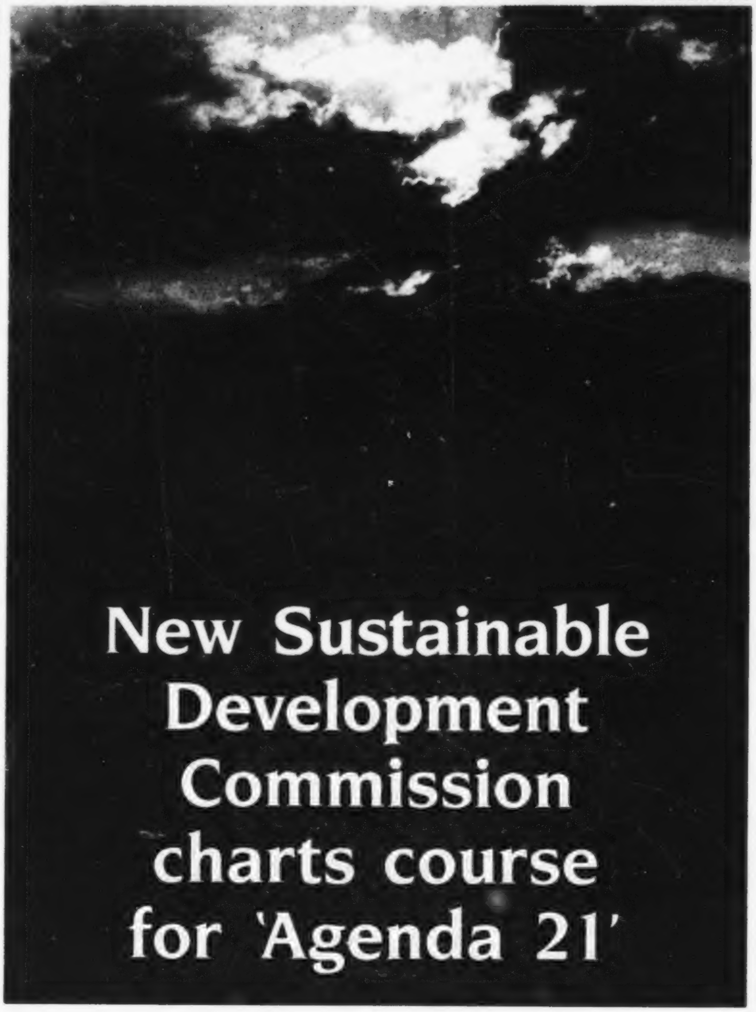
Guidelines for the May 1994 World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction were approved on 5 February by the Scientific and Technical Committee of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-2000). The Committee, at its fourth session (1-5 February, New Delhi, India), decided that the Conference—to be held in Yokohama, Japan—should review the progress made towards meeting the targets of the Decade, and develop plans to achieve those goals in the second half of the Decade.

Addressing the Special High-Level Council for the Decade, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said: "International interest in, and commitment to, natural disaster reduction has not kept pace with a worsening trend." Natural disasters had in 1991, he said, claimed 162,000 lives and inflicted damage estimated at $44 billion, more than double the cost two years previously.

UN Photo 1824030/M. Tzovaras

The Secretary-General with Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, former President of Mexico and Chairman of the Special High-Level Council for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

The Council—which includes among its members such prominent personalities as former Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol of Thailand, First Lady Suzanne Mubarak of Egypt and Marilyn Quayle of the United States—adopted at its second session (New York, 25 January) a 12-point plan of action, which called for recognition of the interrelationship between environmental concerns and natural disasters.



UN Photo 154709

New Sustainable Development Commission charts course for 'Agenda 21'

The Commission on Sustainable Development was formally established on 12 February by the Economic and Social Council. The 53-member body is charged with monitoring progress in implementing "Agenda 21", the comprehensive action programme adopted by the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. The Commission, a functional body of the Economic and Social Council, will also oversee activities related to the integration of environmental and developmental goals throughout the UN system.

Commission Chairman Razali Ismail of Malaysia said at the first organizational meeting on 24 February that the body was coming into existence arguably as the major outcome of UNCED. It had been "assiduously crafted and structured by a major exercise of international cooperation, which is the only way to ensure the way out of destitution", as well as guarantee the sustainability of the planet. The transition to sustainable development called for costs and commitments, he added, urging Commission members to work in a true spirit of partnership.

Organizational session

At a three-day organizational meeting (24-26 February, New York), the Commission recommended that the 40 chapters of Agenda 21 be clustered into nine groups to permit an easy review of related subjects. Five cross-sectoral groups would be considered each year and the remaining four on a multi-year basis.

To be considered annually are: critical elements of sustainability; financial resources and mechanisms; education, science and transfer of environmentally sound technologies; decision-making structures, including international legal instruments; and the roles of major groups.

For consideration on a multi-year basis are: health, human settlements and freshwater; land, desertification, forests and biodiversity; atmosphere, seas and oceans; and toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes. With a three-year schedule for those four sectoral clusters, all areas could be covered by 1996.

The Commission is to meet for two to three weeks every year, its first substantive session to be held from 14 to 25 June in New York. Of its 53 members, 13 are from African countries, 11 from Asia, 10 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 6 from Eastern Europe, and 13 from Western European and other States.

On 1 February, the Secretary-General reported *(E/1993/15)* he would soon set up the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development, consisting of 15 to 25 internationally recognized personalities. The Board would meet for two to three days before Commission sessions to provide high-level advice on policy proposals and identify emerging issues for consideration by the Commission, the Economic and Social Council, and other relevant bodies.

Drought and desertification

In other follow-up to the Earth Summit, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification held an organizational session in New York (26-29 January).

The Committee, proposed by UNCED in Agenda 21, aims to fight a scourge affecting about one sixth of the world's population, a quarter of the earth's land area and 70 per cent of all drylands.

Committee Chairman Bo Kjellen of Sweden said that populations struggling daily with drought and desertification must be provided with the best instrument to affect change in their regions.

The Committee will convene its first substantive session in Nairobi, Kenya, from 24 May to 3 June. Five two-week substantive sessions are scheduled, with a view to completing a global instrument to combat desertification by June 1994.

UNCED conventions

A four-day International Conference on the Convention on Biodiversity (26-29 January, Nairobi, Kenya) considered the Convention's implementation and related issues.

The UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) "commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, particularly through the Biodiversity Convention, will continue and will grow", said Elizabeth Dowdeswell, the new Executive Director of UNEP, in opening remarks to some 100 Conference participants.

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change held its seventh session (15-19 March, New York), focusing on mechanisms to finance the Convention's implementation.

Nitin Desai, UN Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, told the Committee that the Climate Convention addressed matters at the heart of the development process. Therefore, it was hoped that procedures evolving from its work would impact not only climate change, but other development matters as well.

Political storm

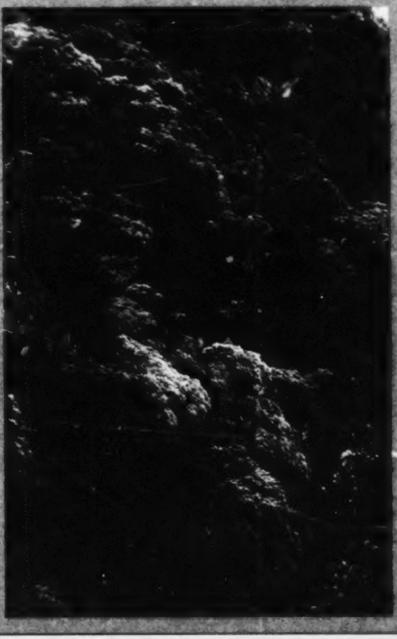
Two bodies associated with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) met in February. The Commission for Climatology of WMO, composed mostly of scientists and technical experts, held its eleventh session in Havana, Cuba (15-26 February). A new working group of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Geneva, 8-12 February) agreed on ways to assess information on the impact of climate change, as well as possible responses to such change.

In a "familiarization meeting" with WMO, heads of about 20 Hydrometeorological Services of the newly independent States in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union spoke of the problems that the political turmoil has had on their services, which suffered from lack of equipment and trained personnel. "By disrupting one station in one State, we are disrupting the global network" of weather stations, said N. I. Beradje of Georgia. ■

Meanwhile, in the rainforest . . .

Underscoring the Herculean task facing the new Commission on Sustainable Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) reported on 8 March that a total of 154 million hectares of tropical forest—an area about the size of Peru and Ecuador combined or three times that of France—had been lost between 1981 and 1990.

This information was contained in the latest Forest Resources Assessment, made available at the eleventh session of FAO's Committee on Forestry (Rome, 8-12 March). Based on current data received from high resolution satellites, deforestation was reputed to have increased sharply in Asia and, to a lesser extent, in Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean.


UN Photo 157453

Asia has lost 1.1 per cent of its forest every year over the last decade; the corresponding figure for both Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa is 0.7 per cent. Annual deforestation was estimated at 11.4 million hectares in 1980, increasing to 15.4 million hectares in 1990.

The main culprits cited by FAO for the loss of tropical forests are population growth, rural poverty and land clearance for agriculture. FAO urged compliance with the so-called Forest Principles—formally known as the "Statement of Principles on the Management Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forest"—adopted at the Earth Summit, as well as the relevant action programme set out in Agenda 21.

Conference 'back on centre stage'

Ad hoc committees on a nuclear-test ban, prevention of an arms race in outer space, effective international arrangements to assure security for non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and transparency in armaments were established by the Conference on Disarmament during the first part of its 1993 session (19 January-25 March, Geneva).

Other items on the Conference's agenda were: cessation of the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament; prevention of nuclear war; new types of weapons of mass destruction and new weapons systems; radiological weapons; a comprehensive programme of disarmament; and the role of the Conference itself.

On 18 February, the Conference adopted two reports for consideration by the General Assembly's First Committee (Political and Security) at its resumed session in March.

Regarding the Secretary-General's report entitled "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era", the Conference reported *(CD/1183)* that in the new international environment, the "very concept of disarmament and arms regulation as a key element in pursuit of overall international security" was being expanded and enriched.

A multilateral approach

Together with unilateral measures and bilateral and regional arrangements, disarmament needed a "multilateral approach" since it was a "collective responsibility". As the "sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community", the Conference had an "increased role to play".

To fulfil its new and enhanced tasks, the Conference decided to "intensify consultations on its improved and effective functioning" and on issues relating to its membership and agenda.

In a second report *(CD/1184)*, the Conference informed the First Committee that it was continuing its review of its agenda, membership and methods of work. To that end, it decided to continue consultations to identify specific items for future review, and appointed a Special Coordinator to consider the possible expansion of its membership, and another to review the issue of its agenda.

Use momentum

The end of the cold war had brought disarmament "back on to the centre stage", and the Conference "should now take advantage of the momentum created by the successful conclusion of the Chemical Weapons Convention" to make progress on other important issues, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a message to the Conference read out on 19 January by Vicente Berasategui, his Personal Representative to the Conference and its Secretary-General.

As the previous balance of power between two military blocs had been "replaced by instability and volatility in many regions of the globe", the process of multilateral disarmament became an "integral part of peace-making and peace-keeping", the statement continued.

Opening the session, the Conference President for January and February, Celso Amorim of Brazil, said collective thinking was required to "contribute to the reassessment of the multilateral arms control and disarmament machinery", so that the Conference would continue to "play its important role as a negotiating body for disarmament-related issues".

A number of developments in important disarmament areas were highlighted during Conference debate.

Stephen Ledogar of the United States, also speaking on behalf of the Russian Federation, announced formally the signing in Moscow on [illegible] January of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START II), which would reduce the total number of the two countries' strategic nuclear weapons "by two thirds below current levels". The Treaty would eliminate the "most destabilizing class of strategic weapons"—all multiple-warhead missiles and intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas of Sweden on 4 February expressed concern over the "increased risk of clandestine transfers" of weapons from the new republics of the former Soviet Union. She said Sweden was assisting several members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in strengthening borders and customs control. ■

Streamlining UN disarmament machinery

Stressing the need for multilateral arms control and disarmament machinery to respond to the new "multifaceted realities of international security", the First Committee (Political and Security) on 12 March recommended further rationalization of the work of disarmament bodies: the Disarmament Commission; the Conference on Disarmament; and the Committee itself.

The Committee expressed itself during a five-day resumed session (8-12 March, New York) in resolution 47/54 G adopted by the General Assembly in April.

Reaffirming the Disarmament Commission's role as a "specialized deliberative body" within the UN disarmament machinery, the Assembly recommended its continued reform to enable it to focus on a limited number of priority issues.

Support asked for regional education centres

Stronger support from UN Member States and international organizations for proposed regional space education centres in developing countries was sought by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its thirtieth session (16-25 February, New York).

The new centres for space science and technology education would fulfil the "urgent need to develop capabilities at the local level through intensive education programmes", Adigun Ade Abiodun, UN Expert on Space Applications, told the body on 18 February.

Initial emphasis would be on in-depth education, research and applications programmes in satellite meteorology and remote sensing as they related to environmental monitoring and natural resources management.

The Subcommittee also suggested that its parent body—the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space—consider at its June 1993 session the holding of a third UN Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE).

Varied agenda

Also under discussion were such matters as: remote sensing; the UN Programme on Space Applications; implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82; use of nuclear power sources in outer space; space transportation systems; life sciences; planetary exploration; astronomy; Earth environment and space debris; the geosphere-biosphere programme on global change; and the geostationary orbit.

During its eight-day session, the Subcommittee also considered possible ways of revising the new Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, including expanding their scope to cover other uses of nuclear power in space, criteria of acceptable risk, approaches to risk assessment, and further definition of terms. In adopting the Principles *(resolution 47/63)*, the General Assembly recommended that they be kept under review as the related technology continued to develop.

> **"On-the-job training should continue to be the focus of the UN Space Applications Programme"**

Member States, it said, should report regularly on national and international research concerning the safety of nuclear-powered satellites, and further studies should be conducted on the problem of collisions between nuclear power sources and space debris.

Scientific and technical presentations were made by experts on human space flight, the Russian Space Agency, satellite radio broadcasting, and Sweden's scientific space programme.

A two-day scientific symposium was held at the outset of the session with the theme: "Space-based communication: the expansion of current services and increased understanding of new systems and the services they will make possible".

Important advances outlined

Opening the session, Subcommittee Chairman John Carver of Australia made his traditional annual overview of national space activities.

Eight missions had been flown last year by the United States Space Shuttle programme, with a total of 44 men and 9 women on board, including 5 astronauts from other countries—Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Japan and Canada.

Permanent occupation by rotating crews of the Commonwealth of Independent States' Mir space station had also continued. German and French cosmonauts had conducted scientific experiments on board. The latest crew, sent in February, was expected to work in orbit for six months.

Commercial space launching services were "steadily expanding", Mr. Carver said. The European launcher, Ariane, had placed 10 satellites into the geostationary orbit to serve communications systems in France, India, Japan, Spain and the United States, as well as those of Arabsat, Eutelsat and Inmarsat.

Satellite imagery from commercial Spot and Landsat spacecraft had been used by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to identify high-fertility farmland areas for the resettlement of some 375,000 Cambodian refugees. About 1,000 small communication ground terminals were employed by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia to coordinate the refugees' return.

A small, low-cost Brazilian satellite, which relays environmental data on the Amazon River and the surrounding rain forests, had been launched by a United States Pegasus rocket released from an aircraft in flight.

Remote sensing satellites were used by the European Commission to extensively map Eastern Europe. Key

OUTER SPACE

environmental problems in the 1.2-million square kilometre area to be surveyed included: industrialization of national parks in Hungary; wind, tides and movement of sand dunes along Poland's Baltic coast; and deterioration of forests due to heavy industry and mining pollution in the "Black Triangle" area of northern Bohemia, south-western Poland and eastern Germany.

Space applications

Long-term, project-oriented, on-the-job training in space technology and in specific applications areas should continue to be the focus of the UN Space Applications Programme, the Subcommittee stated in its report *(A/AC.105/543)*. It also called for emphasis on new developments in satellite systems, software for remote sensing, use of digital processing systems and training in the management and operation of ground stations.

From a painting by Attila Hejja

Also stressed was the importance of regional and international cooperation in making available to all countries the benefits of space technology through such cooperative activities as joint payloads, dissemination of information on spin-off benefits, ensuring compatibility of space systems, and providing low-cost access to launch capabilities.

As for using satellite remote sensing for environmental and development-related activities, the Subcommittee wanted further space research on climate change, weather patterns, vegetation distribution, storm and flood risk, and other environmental factors.

Remote-sensing data should be openly available at a reasonable cost and in a timely manner, the Subcommittee stated, as should continuing free access to data from operational meteorological satellites.

Legal aspects of a possible revision of the Principles and such other matters as the definition and delimitation of outer space and its use for the benefit of all countries were considered by the Legal Subcommittee, which met at Headquarters from 22 March to 8 April. *(More information on that meeting will appear in the* UN Chronicle *Issue 3, September 1993).* ■

DECOLONIZATION

Work 'not yet over'

Although the achievements of the UN in the field of decolonization over the last 30 years are "known and acknowledged the world over", they must not be taken for granted, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples—known as the Special Committee on decolonization—in opening the body's 1993 session on 10 February.

Much still remained to be done, he stressed, as some populations—mainly in the Caribbean and the Pacific—had "not yet had an opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination and independence".

Although the political map of the world had changed in recent years and the process of decolonization was "no longer generating extensive conflicts", the Committee's work was "not yet over", Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated. It was up to the world Organization to ensure that the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories "fully exercise their right to freely choose their future status", in accordance with UN Charter principles and relevant resolutions.

Renagi Renagi Lohia of Papua New Guinea, re-elected as Special Committee Chairman, said he did not accept the "often not so subtle suggestion that the era of colonialism is over as long as there are countries and peoples, whatever their size and location, who do not exercise their inalienable right to self-determination".

A more positive method of work that could "truly assist" the people of Non-Self-Governing Territories should be found, said Subcommittee Chairman Amor Ardhaoui of Tunisia on 11 March. He regretted the absence of the administering Powers from Subcommittee meetings because the body wanted to "hear their views and positions in a full dialogue".

Informal meetings

More time should be devoted to informal meetings, he said, to address the special needs of each Territory, since each required "different treatment".

The Subcommittee would consider Territories by region—first, those in the Caribbean, then the Pacific—and would evaluate their political, social, economic and educational situations.

A Pacific regional seminar to review the political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, as requested in General Assembly resolution 46/181, will be held by the Special Committee in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, from 8 to 10 June. ■

Framework needed to resolve 'hard core' issues

The need for a framework agreement to deal with "hard core" issues that have so far eluded resolution was stressed at the eleventh session (22 March-2 April, Kingston) of the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

The so-called "hard core" issues mainly involve provisions of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which deals with mining of the seabed in areas outside the jurisdiction or sovereignty of States. The issues range from the financial terms of contracts to be issued by the Seabed Authority to entities seeking to extract certain minerals from the international seabed to decision-making within the Authority and the financing of the Authority.

What was needed was a "framework agreement" that would set up the timing, guidelines, conditions and procedures on the basis of which those "hard core" or "pending issues" should be dealt with in the future, Preparatory Commission Chairman José Luis Jesus of Cape Verde stated on 2 April. "Such a framework agreement would not only give us a guarantee that the pending issues will be dealt with at an appropriate time, but also create the conditions for the universal acceptance of the Convention", he added.

Overcome obstacles

Already, the Secretary-General has held a series of informal consultations on the practical difficulties associated with the seabed mining regime.

On 28 January, at the opening of the first 1993 round of informal consultations (28-29 January, New York) on the Convention's provisions governing the exploitation of the international seabed area, he stated that one major difficulty which stood in the way of the Treaty's universal acceptance was that the "great majority" of the industrialized States were opposed to provisions governing the international regime for deep seabed mining.

> "The duty of the UN is to ensure that the Treaty becomes the cornerstone of tomorrow's international maritime law"

A comprehensive solution would have to safeguard the principle of the common heritage of mankind, Mr. Boutros-Ghali stated, adding that it was the UN's duty to ensure that the Convention "enters fully into force at last and really becomes the cornerstone of tomorrow's international maritime law".

The same theme was stressed by the Chairman of the Preparatory Commission, who stated that all efforts should focus on negotiating a framework agreement before the entry into force of the Convention in order to "solidify support for the Convention as a whole, save the institutions created by it and preserve the basic tenets of the international legal regime contained in Part XI".

To date, the Convention has been ratified or acceded to by 55 States. It will enter into force one year after the deposit with the Secretary-General of the sixtieth ratification or accession.

The Commission decided not to hold any more meetings in 1993. Instead, it decided to make provisions every year for a two-week annual session, until the entry into force of the Convention. Further, it was decided that the effective holding of such meetings, the dates and the venue would be decided by the Chairman, in consultation with interested parties.

General Committee

Meanwhile, the General Committee, acting as the executive organ of the Commission, would meet for two or three days annually to consider pioneer seabed activities and monitor the implementation of the obligations of registered pioneer investors.

Over its two-week spring session, the Commission and its four special commissions considered their draft final reports, which contained objective summaries of the deliberations in the Commission over the years. The draft reports outline those issues on which agreement has been possible, as well as those that remain pending.

The Commission also selected five candidates for the training programmes offered by India and the Russian Federation, and approved the training programmes of China and the Interoceanmetal Joint Organization—all registered pioneer investors. It also asked for revisions to a training programme offered by Germany. ■

'Fresh perspectives' on many issues

The peaceful settlement of disputes and a strengthened UN role in international peace and security were among the issues discussed at the 1993 session of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (1-19 March, New York).

The challenges facing the UN had been spelt out in the Secretary-General's report, *An Agenda for Peace*, Special Committee Chairman Erkki Kourula of Finland said in an opening statement on 1 March. New political circumstances allowed many issues to "be approached from fresh perspectives". Considering regional organizations "as partners, and not as alternatives" to the UN, made it possible to improve cooperation.

Promotion of the peaceful settlement of disputes deserved constant attention, Mr. Kourula stated. Emphasis must be placed on prevention, particularly on peacemaking, rather than enforcement.

The 47-member Special Committee meets annually and reports to the Assembly's Sixth Committee (Legal).

Committee action

Guatemala's revised set of rules for the conciliation of disputes between States was discussed by the Committee, which noted that country's intention to submit a revised draft in 1994. Those non-binding rules, contained in 31 articles, could be employed by States after failing to resolve their disputes through negotiation.

A working paper by the Russian Federation on cooperation between the UN and regional organizations called on States to establish regional bodies capable of taking action for the prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes, with special attention given to preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping and dispute settlement through negotiation, enquiries, mediation, conciliation, good offices, judicial settlement and arbitration.

> **"Emphasis must be placed on prevention of conflict rather than enforcement"**

Two working papers on assistance to third States affected by sanctions were submitted. A 13-Power draft sought to establish an assistance fund of assessed and voluntary contributions, to be administered by the Secretary-General. Two States favoured individual trust funds, to be created under the same Council resolutions which imposed economic sanctions.

A Libyan proposal on strengthening the UN role urged discussion of the principle of consensus among the Council's permanent members, stating that the use of veto had "rendered the Council unable to fulfil its role". It suggested that the veto should not be invoked to "defend acts of aggression, occupation and injustice".

A Cuban paper called on the Special Committee to discuss the privileges of the Council's permanent members, as well as the Council's composition, functions and mandate.

Flexibility needed

In debate, suggestions were made to improve cooperation between the UN and regional organizations. Speaking on behalf of the European Community, Denmark suggested that such coordination should respond to threats to international peace and security without rigid formulations, adding that flexibility was required to adapt to the particular needs of each situation.

Romania said the UN could not protect all people afflicted by war and that regional organizations must assume more responsibility. The security of any country in Europe was "inconceivable" without the interaction of the UN, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Western European Union.

Guyana stated that while recourse to regional organizations as a practical measure should be encouraged, it should not detract from the primary responsibility of the UN in maintaining international peace and security.

Japan said serious consideration should be given to the Security Council's membership and composition. Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group, said the Council should expand its membership in accordance with the "logic of democracy".

The end of the cold war had witnessed a dramatic increase in Council activities and a new reality raised questions about its "representative" character, Brazil stated. While 180 countries were currently represented in the UN, the number of seats in the Council had remained unchanged since 1963.

Colombia suggested that the relationship between the Assembly and the Council should be marked by "greater equilibrium and cooperation", and a new form of "constitutional control" over the Council might allow for greater cooperation between them. ■

Foundation experts outline ways to finance a more effective UN

The international community must provide adequate, assured and more timely financial support for the UN, if the Organization is to discharge effectively and efficiently the critical demands placed upon it in the post-cold-war world.

This was the conclusion of an independent advisory group convened by the Ford Foundation, in consultation with the office of the UN Secretary-General, in response to growing concerns about the UN's financial problems.

Co-chaired by former Japan Development Bank Deputy Governor Shijuro Ogata and former United States Federal Reserve Bank Chairman Paul Volcker, the 11-member panel stated that existing financial arrangements had hampered UN efforts to respond to challenges posed by regional conflicts, humanitarian emergencies and obstacles to development in every part of the globe.

The panel called for the establishment of a $400-million revolving fund for peace-keeping, financed by three annual assessments on Member States, that would assure reliable funding in the critical start-up phase of operations.

In a 34-page report entitled *Financing an Effective United Nations*, the group outlined a comprehensive and detailed series of recommendations to place the Organization on sounder financial footing.

It noted that in no area had the international community's demands on the UN grown as quickly as they had in peace-keeping. Two years ago, the UN had some 15,000 peace-keepers deployed around the world; currently, it has nearly 55,000.

Despite this growth, the UN still lacks the permanent management, training and logistical infrastructure it needs to mount peace-keeping operations effectively and expeditiously, the panel said. Funds were unavailable to permit the UN to implement Security Council decisions promptly and in all circumstances.

At a time when UN forces were being called on to perform increasingly dangerous and difficult missions, the international community must ensure that they had the financial support to succeed and must be prepared to accept significantly increased peace-keeping costs in the coming years. Governments were urged to consider financing future peace-keeping costs from their national defence budgets.

The panel suggested that the UN consider a unified peace-keeping budget, financed by a single annual assessment, to replace the current system under which each mission is financed separately. A unified budget would enable the UN to create an ongoing infrastructure for managing operations and providing them with common services, it affirmed.

To address the UN's persistent budget shortfall, the group called on all countries to pay their assessed dues on time and in full. Governments should also pay their dues in four quarterly installments, rather than the current single payment due in January. The UN should be able to charge interest on late payments. ■

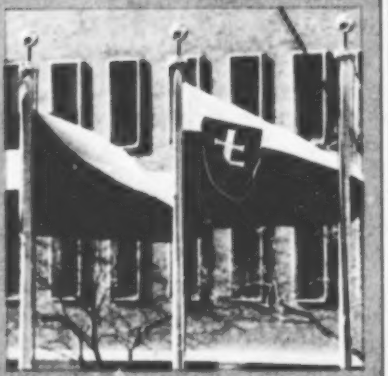
Czech, Slovak Republics join UN

Two new States—the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic—were admitted to the United Nations on 19 January, bringing the total membership to 180. The Assembly, acting by acclamation and on the recommendation of the Security Council, divided the seats on various subsidiary organs held by the former Czechoslovakia, which ceased to exist on 31 December 1992.

Following their admission, Assembly President Stoyan Ganev of Bulgaria said he was confident that "the same spirit of peace and stability that has characterized the creation of these two new States will continue to serve as an example of what is possible in international relations when countries put the interests of their people first and are genuinely committed to resolving issues in an atmosphere of mutual respect for law and for one another".

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, speaking at the flag-raising ceremony on 19 January, said that "in the changed world of today", he hoped that the two nations would follow the tradition of internationalism shown by their people. "That tradition, and your sensitivity to international politics, has much to contribute to the United Nations."

UN Photo 182411/J. Isaac



The new flags of the Czech Republic (left) and the Slovak Republic (right).

The art of attracting fine art

By Elsa B. Endrst

WFUNA Deputy Secretary-General Annabelle Wiener surrounded by art in her New York office.

Seated in her colourful, art-filled office across from UN Headquarters in New York, surrounded by the works of world-famous painters and photographers, Annabelle Wiener, Deputy Secretary-General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), reflected on the incredible success of her organization's philatelic programme.

Now in its 26th year, WFUNA's series of first day covers has featured the works of such celebrated artists as Salvador Dali, Marc Chagall, Alexander Calder, Joan Miro and Norman Rockwell. All the original artwork has been contributed, free of charge, by their creators.

"Although we started the programme as a fund raiser", Mrs. Wiener says, "it has become the most valuable educational project that we ever dreamed of. We reached more people through this programme and the publicity we send out than we could with anything else we might do. We are written up in movie magazines, in columns, in art magazines and we get the UN story to places we could not otherwise."

Many WFUNA first day covers, highly valued by philatelists worldwide, have been designed by famous figures in the world of theater, stage, film, science, sports, as well as art. Each design fulfils a theme of a UN Postal Administration postage stamp issue—a tiny message of peace keyed to a UN agency, accomplishment, programme or aspiration.

Idealism, realism mix

Recalling the beginnings of WFUNA, Mrs. Wiener said that the constitution was adopted at a meeting in the Chamber of Deputies Hall in the city of Luxembourg on 2 August 1946. Clark Eichelberger, who served as its Executive Director, headed the delegation of the American Association of the United Nations.

Many delegates to that first WFUNA conference, she said, were young men and women who had fought for their countries in the allied armies, in the underground and in various resistance movements.

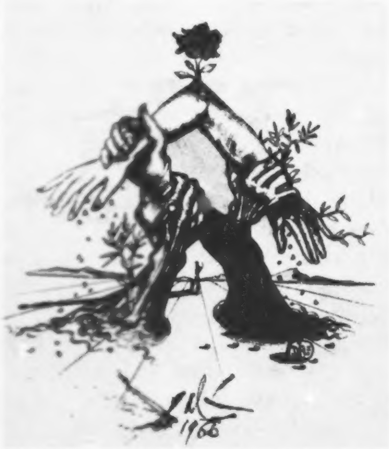
"There was a mixture of idealism, combined with a healthy realism among these delegates as to the magnitude of the task in development of public opinion on the United Nations", she stated.

Jan Masaryk, Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia, was elected President and former United States First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt was named one of four honorary Presidents at the first meeting. "Great names and great people play a very important part in the history of WFUNA, which today includes almost 80 countries", Mrs. Wiener said.

First issue by Dali

The WFUNA philatelic programme, she went on, grew out of a need for funds. The first issue commemorating the Federation's twentieth anniversary in 1966 featured an original water-colour by Salvador Dali. The stamp cover and limited lithograph, which sold at the time for $150, is now a collector's item valued at $2,500. The original Dali water-colour still hangs in the public area of UN Headquarters.

Since 1968, the philatelic programme has produced six first day covers each year, Mrs. Wiener added. Usually, stamp envelopes are produced in numbers ranging from 20,000 to 25,000, while the limited print editions range from 500 to 1,000.



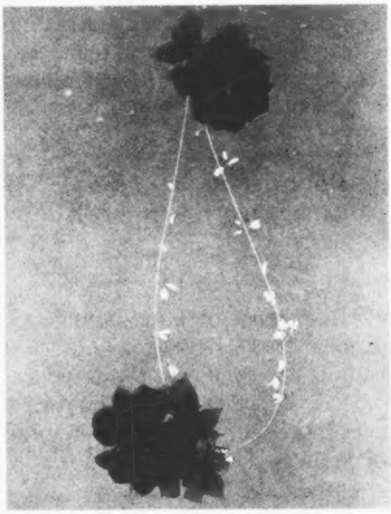
This Salvador Dali water-colour appeared on the first WFUNA cachet, issued in 1966.

That the programme has been able to attract such distinguished personalities as caricaturist Al Hirschfeld, Princess Grace of Monaco, actresses Gloria Swanson and Sophia Loren, singer Tony Bennett, heiress Gloria Vanderbilt, boxer Mohammed Ali, scientist Jacques Cousteau, artist Peter Max and numerous others, Mrs. Wiener attributes mostly to Mr. Dali's contribution to the first issue. But many believe it is also due to Mrs. Wiener's own persuasive personality and energy, as well as her many friends and contacts.

Princess Grace by mail

Mrs. Wiener recalls that Princess Grace was one of the few people she contacted "cold", asking her to participate in the philatelic programme. It was through reading a gossip column that she found out that the Princess painted. "So I wrote a letter to her in March 1979. By return mail, I heard from her lady-in-waiting that she would provide us with artwork as long as she did not have to do something original for us", Mrs. Wiener said.

Soon after, a piece which had been exhibited in Paris was shipped to WFUNA. "It was a flower collage, so delicate it could not be taken out of the frame to be photographed." Smiling, Mrs. Wiener remembers her relief when the photos for the stamp artwork, taken through glass, turned out beautifully.


A pressed flower collage by Princess Grace of Monaco for a WFUNA first day cover in 1979.

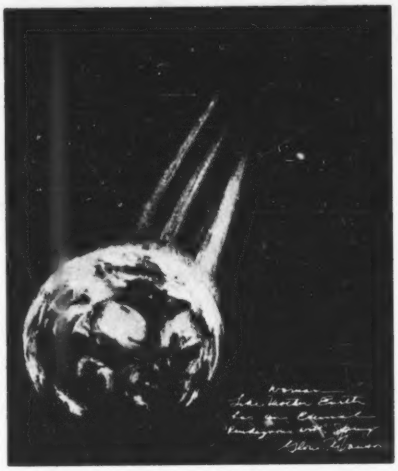
When a stamp for the Law of the Sea was in the planning stage, Mrs. Wiener said she could think of only one person—undersea expert Jacques Cousteau.

"I didn't know whether he could draw", she admitted, "but I thought even if he only signed his name, that would be good enough for us. I wrote in plenty of time, but there was no answer at all." One evening, however, when only a high school intern was manning the WFUNA office, a call came in from the UN main information desk stating that there was a Mr. Cousteau to see Mrs. Wiener. When the flustered intern went down, there was, indeed, Mr. Cousteau, personally delivering a finished drawing to WFUNA.

Some years later, when Mr. Cousteau and Mrs. Wiener met by chance in Paris, he confessed that he had done the drawing while suffering from the flu. "He thought I was a 'crazy lady' for even thinking to ask him, of all people as he put it, to draw something." But while in bed, reading a reproduction of the *Book of Kells*, he came upon a picture which inspired him to draw a man inside a dolphin, which he later donated for the WFUNA cover.

Swanson gets involved

When Mrs. Wiener speaks of actress Gloria Swanson, there is a special warmth in her voice. She approached the actress by letter after having read of her successful exhibit in London. Ms. Swanson later became so involved in the WFUNA philatelic programme that she not only designed a first day cover for the UN Decade for Women series, but in March 1980 cut the ribbon at the American Stamp Dealers Association exhibit at Madison Square Garden.



Artwork donated by Gloria Swanson for the UN Decade for Women series.

Sometimes, Mrs. Wiener says, one artist unintentionally leads to another. Many years ago, pop artist Andy Warhol attended a WFUNA luncheon in honour of an Iranian Ambassador who had provided art to WFUNA. During an animated conversation, the Ambassador urged Mr. Warhol to "do something for Annabelle". He agreed and another cover was born.

The WFUNA philatelic programme is truly international, featuring over the years, artists from Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Cyprus, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Germany, France, Honduras, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Monaco, Senegal, Spain, the Sudan, Switzerland, the former Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States.

One touching example of an artist's dedication to the programme was demonstrated by Inuit artist Jessie Oonark who in 1976 agreed to come to New York from Baker Lake, Canada, despite the fact that she truly feared the "big city". Mrs. Oonark, who has 10 children and 57 grandchildren, chose the only son who could speak English to accompany her on the trip. She painstakingly signed her work in Inuit on each piece and included a copy of the Inuit alphabet so that people could understand her hand-signed piece, Mrs. Wiener said.

It is that kind of spirit that has made the WFUNA philatelic programme not only a gallery of highly unusual, visually pleasing artworks appreciated by stamp collectors throughout the world, but also a messenger for the United Nations itself. ■

BOOKWATCH

Native Peoples of the Russian Far North

Nikolai Vakhtin
Minority Rights Group, London, 1992
40 pp. £ 3.95. ISBN 0-946690-95-2

In the vast territory of the Russian Federation bordering the Arctic Ocean and Bering Sea live some 190,000 indigenous peoples, officially called the "Northern Minorities". They share a common feature, writes Nikolai Vakhtin, linguist and ethnologist at the Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg, for "they live in a situation that can best be described as an 'ethnic catastrophe'." After deftly reviewing the history of the catastrophe from the sixteenth century, Vakhtin offers recommendations based on the needs voiced by the Northern Minorities and the views of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and independent experts for winning the rights of these peoples.

International Organizations—Second Edition

Clive Archer
Routledge, London and New York, 1992
205 pp. $18.95. ISBN 0-415-07837-7

Lucid and comprehensive, the new edition of Clive Archer's introduction to international organizations is welcome. He sketches their history, classifies them, analyses their functions and provides a review of the key literature. In a concluding chapter, Archer, who is a faculty member of the University of Aberdeen, usefully reflects upon the future of international organizations and the growing importance of NGOs.

Global Economy in the Age of Science-Based Knowledge

Mirko Bunc
UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
United Nations, New York, 1992
296 pp. $35. Sales No. E.92.III.K.RR.37 ISBN 92-1-157184-7

Dr. Bunc, a diplomat and university professor, believes humankind is in transition from the "age of information" to the "age of science-based knowledge", embracing a new world culture open to new socio-economic thinking. Central in this transformation is the new humanism of universality, creativity and the advance of human rights and responsibilities. Bunc argues in this provocative book of philosophy and what he calls "socionomy" for establishing "a balanced global economy based on justice through equality of opportunities and cooperation among all peoples of our globe, while respecting the dignity of all human beings"

Earth Summit: Agenda 21 The United Nations Programme of Action from Rio

United Nations, New York, 1993
294 pp. $25. Sales No. E.93.I.11
ISBN 92-1-100509-4

The Global Partnership for Environment and Development: A Guide to Agenda 21, Post Rio Edition

United Nations, New York, 1993
239 pp. $9.95. Sales No. E.93.I.9 ISBN 92-1-100497-7

"Humanity stands at a defining moment in history." So begins the preamble to Agenda 21, the programme of action for sustainable development, adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The full text of this lengthy document, along with the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Statement of Forest Principles, is published in a business-like format in *Earth Summit: Agenda 21*. Readers who want a summary and guide to Agenda 21 will find it in *The Global Partnership*.

Yearbook of the United Nations 1991

UN Department of Public Information
Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Dordrecht, The Netherlands
United Nations Publications, New York, 1992
1,124 pp. $115. Sales No. E.92.I.1 ISBN 0-7923-1970-2

Students of the Iraq-Kuwait conflict will find the 1991 *Yearbook* especially useful for its nearly 50-page review of the situation as it evolved at the UN. Other rich sections treat disarmament, human rights and the Middle East. To restore annual publication, some sacrifice in detail was necessary, but the sweep of the well-indexed and readable and now timely work remains.

Education for All: Roundtable Themes World Conference on Education for All

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,
Paris, 1992 3 volumes, 288 pp. ISBN 92-3-102769-7

The week-long World Conference on Education for All, held at Jomtien, Thailand, in March 1990 explored critical themes and issues involving early childhood, girls' education, culture, language policy and adult literacy. The papers from its 48 round tables have been synthesized in three skillfully edited monographs, designed to bring an essential part of the World Conference to the public.

Reviewed by Professor Harold Fruchtbaum
Columbia University, New York

NEWS ALMANAC

Renewed fighting in Rwanda

The Security Council on 12 March invited the Secretary-General to examine requests by Rwanda and Uganda for the deployment of observers at the border between those two countries by unanimously adopting resolution 812 (1993). Alarmed by the "humanitarian consequences of the latest resumption of the fighting in Rwanda", as well as "its consequences regarding international peace and security", the Council called on the Government and the Rwandese Patriotic Front to respect the cease-fire which took effect on 9 March. The Secretary-General was to examine the possible establishment of an international force, under the aegis of the UN and the Organization of African Unity, to monitor the cease-fire.

UN Photo 182671/M.Tzovaras

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali conferring on Rwanda with Security Council members on 12 March.

Support for ECOWAS efforts in Liberia

Condemning cease-fire violations by any of the warring parties in Liberia and attacks on West African peace-keeping troops, the Security Council on 26 March reaffirmed its belief that the 1991 Yamoussoukro IV Accord offered the "best possible framework for a peaceful resolution of the Liberian conflict". Should any party be unwilling to cooperate in implementing the Accord, the Council, in unanimously adopting resolution 813 (1993), declared "its readiness to consider appropriate measures" in support of the peace-keeping efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The Secretary-General was to consider convening a meeting of the warring factions and the President of the Interim Government of National Unity to restate their commitment to the Accord within an agreed timetable. The Accord, agreed upon by the main Liberian factions on 3 October 1991, outlines steps towards a peaceful solution of the three-year-old civil war.

There was a "general consensus to the effect that the United Nations should assume a larger role in the search for peace in Liberia", the Secretary-General stated in a 12 March report *(S/25402)*. Describing this possible role, the Secretary-General said it was envisioned that deployment of some 200 UN observers would be linked with the signing of a cease-fire agreement.

North Korea withdraws from NPT, IAEA cites non-compliance

The Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) concluded at a two-day meeting (31 March-1 April, Vienna) that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)—North Korea—had not complied with its obligations under the 1982 Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA. The 35-member Board called upon North Korea to "remedy its non-compliance" by granting, without further delay, access to specific additional information and to two locations cited by the IAEA Director-General on 9 February.

On 12 March, DPRK Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam informed *(S/25405)* the Security Council of his Government's decision to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), claiming that the United States and the Republic of Korea had "instigated" the IAEA officials and certain member States to adopt an "unjust resolution", demanding that North Korea open its "military sites that have no relevance at all to the nuclear activities".

Independence referendum in Eritrea

Eritrean authorities pledged support for the efforts of the UN Observer Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea (UNOVER) in meetings with Samir Sanbar, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for UNOVER, who arrived on 15 February in Asmara. UNOVER, authorized by the General Assembly on 16 December 1992, was to verify the impartiality of the referendum authorities and the freedom of organization and expression. It was also mandated to observe voter registration and the referendum campaign, as well as the conduct of the poll scheduled for April 1993.

Audrey Hepburn honoured

UN Photo 182698/E. Debebe

SPECIAL COLLECTOR'S ISSUE
People weekly Extra
A Tribute to Audrey Hepburn

James Grant *(left)*, Executive Director of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Katie Couric, co-host of the *Today Show*, at a luncheon on 10 March honouring Audrey Hepburn, UNICEF's Special Ambassador, who died on 20 January 1993. People Magazine donated $100,000 to the United States Committee for UNICEF. Ms. Couric accepted the donation on behalf of Ms. Hepburn.

NEWS ALMANAC

Solemn declaration for 50th anniversary

The Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations on 16 March decided to establish a working group to draft a solemn declaration to mark the anniversary in 1995. At a meeting on 22 February, the Committee agreed on four organizing principles for the anniversary: all celebrations and actions should be universal in character; there should be a clear allocation of functions between the UN system and Member States; a suitable climax to the anniversary needed to be determined, based on its universal importance and enduring effect; and all UN activities should be conducted in all the UN official languages.

Eastern Europe: 'Favourable background' for drugs

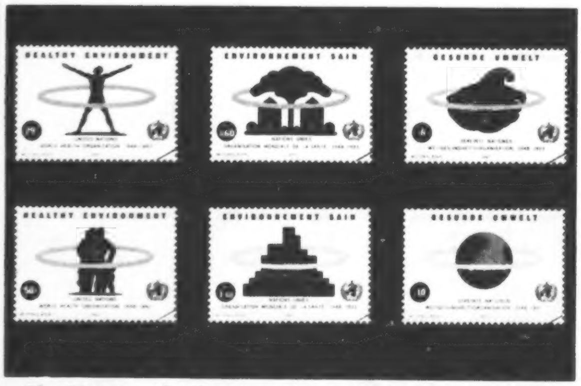
The rapid political and economic changes in Europe—especially in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union—are creating a highly favourable background for illicit drug trafficking, officials reported at the second meeting (Vienna, 22-26 February) of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) of the continent. A combination of lax border controls, legal loopholes in foreign trade and banking, and a lack of reliable statistics provided advantages for trafficking organizations. In Western Europe, the abolition of internal border controls of the European Community posed a short-term danger, which traffickers might try to exploit.

Humanitarian relief

The UN on 19 February launched four special appeals for the 1993 humanitarian assistance requirements for: Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya and the Sudan. Despite improved harvests, a total of $762 million was needed for relief, short-term rehabilitation and refugee assistance efforts. The emergency assistance needed for 1993 was less than the requirements of $970 million in 1992, and would give greater attention to rehabilitation and short-term reconstruction.

In southern Africa, 4.9 million metric tons of cereals and other supplies were delivered to drought-stricken countries between April and December 1992, according to a 14 January report by the World Food Programme and the Southern African Development Community Logistical Advisory Centre. Reported to be the "largest such effort" in Africa, the operation was undertaken through "unprecedented regional coordination".

STAMP CORNER



The UN Postal Administration (UNPA) issued on 7 May a set of six stamps on the theme "Healthy Environment" to commemorate the forty-fifth anniversary of the World Health Organization.

The stamps illustrate the following: personal environment; family environment; neighbourhood and community environment; urban environment; regional and national environment; and continental and global environment.

VEREINTE NATIONEN
S13

Accompanying the stamp issue and featured on a first day cover of the World Federation of United Nations Associations is the "Visions of Clean Worlds" painting by self-taught folk artist Howard Finster of the United States.

Also issued on 7 May were two definitive stamps, with denominations of 5 United States cents and 13 Austrian schillings.

United Nations
5c

The fifth and final set of stamps in the UNPA multi-year series commemorating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is to be issued on 11 June. As one of the most important projects undertaken by UNPA, the series depicts some of the world's pre-eminent art to illustrate the hopes and achievements towards human rights, with each stamp representing one of the Declaration's 30 articles.

IMO fights piracy

The first meeting of a working group on piracy, established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), was held at the Organization's headquarters in London on 14 January. The group was established to fight piracy and armed robbery of ships, which had "increased substantially in recent years both in number and brutality to crew members and threatens to become a worldwide problem". Over the years, more than 400 incidents of piracy have been reported to IMO, most having taken place in South-East Asia, especially in the Straits of Malacca, but some in west Africa and the north-east coast of South America. The working group was expected to visit South-East Asia and report to IMO's Maritime Safety Committee in May.

Hundreds of millions subject to slavery

Hundreds of millions of people throughout the world are still victims of slavery, the Board of Trustees of the Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery stated at its first session (Geneva, 22-26 March). In fact, the number of people subject to slavery-like practices is greater today than the number of victims of slavery in the peak slave-trade era, from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. One of the most alarming aspects of the problem, the Board said, was the status of children, who were often forced to engage in prostitution and pornography, or to serve as soldiers or household servants.

1993 UN Population Award

The 1993 United Nations Population Award—given annually to individuals and institutions that have made outstanding contributions to increasing the awareness of population problems and their solutions—went to Dr. Fred Sai of Ghana and Mainchu Shimbun Population Problems Research Council of Japan, the Committee of the UN Population Award announced on 18 February. Dr. Sai was recognized for his work and leadership involving family planning, including research on nutrition and community welfare. The Mainchu Shimbun Council was awarded for increasing awareness of population issues through publications.

UNHCR teams help

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees dispatched emergency teams to the west African countries of Benin and Ghana in February, after more than 230,000 refugees fled neighbouring Togo due to fighting which erupted on 31 January in the capital, Lome. Most of the refugees were reported to be in relatively good condition, although there were cases of diarrhoea and measles and a few suffered from war wounds.

Lions Day at the UN

UN Photo 182645/M. Tzovaras

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali *(left)* and Robit Mehta *(right)*, President of the International Association of Lions Clubs, honoured Niken Ayu Murti of Indonesia, 1993 winner of the Clubs' annual peace poster contest.

In brief . . .

- The Statistical Commission, at its twenty-seventh session (New York, 22 February-3 March, 1993), concluded 10 years of efforts by adopting the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA). The new system is an updated framework designed to harmonize different statistical systems and to assist countries in reporting their economic flows and stocks in a uniformed manner.
- The UNDP Governing Council at a special session (16-19 February, New York) approved the launching of Capacity 21, an initiative to assist developing countries in implementing Agenda 21 and other sustainable development programmes.
- Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan of Kuwait was elected President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at its sixteenth session (Rome, 20-22 January).
- New developments in the field of cartography which affect sustainable development were discussed at the Fifth United Nations Cartographic Conference for the Americas (New York, 11-15 January). The Conference called on the UN to provide advice to smaller nations through regional seminars on developing geographic and land information systems.
- Among the human rights treaties assessed by UN bodies between 1 January and 30 March were: the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 1969 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Committee on the Rights of the Child held its third session (11-29 January) and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination held its forty-second session (3-19 March), both in Geneva.

COMING UP

A preview of some important United Nations conferences and events

July-September 1993

New York

6-16 July	Group of Governmental Experts to Carry Out a Study on the Application of Confidence-Building Measures in Outer Space, 4th session
12-30 July	International Civil Service Commission, 38th session
12-30 July	Intergovernmental Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, substantive session
July/August	Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples
2-13 August	Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 1st session
9 August	Special Committee against Apartheid—Special Meeting in Observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa
21 September	Opening of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly

Geneva

12-30 July	Human Rights Committee, 48th session
26 July-8 September	Conference on Disarmament, 3rd part
2-20 August	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 43rd session
23-27 August	Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories
20 September-8 October	Committee on the Rights of the Child, 4th session

Vienna

5-23 July	UN Commission on International Trade Law, 26th session
27 September-1 October	International Atomic Energy Agency—General Conference

Other locations

August/September	Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Kingston
28-30 September	International Monetary Fund/World Bank—annual meetings of the Boards of Governors, Washington, D.C.

Membership of Principal United Nations Organs in 1993

General Assembly

The General Assembly is composed of all 181 United Nations Member States:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, *Argentina, Armenia, *Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, *Belarus, *Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, *Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, *Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, *Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, *Chile, *China, *Colombia, Comoros, Congo, *Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, *Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, *Dominican Republic, *Ecuador, *Egypt, *El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, *Ethiopia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Finland, *France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, *Greece, Grenada, *Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, *Haiti, *Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, *India, Indonesia, *Iran, *Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, *Lebanon, Lesotho, *Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, *Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, *Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, *Netherlands, *New Zealand, *Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, *Norway, Oman, Pakistan, *Panama, Papua New Guinea, *Paraguay, *Peru, *Philippines, *Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, *Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, *South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, *Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, *Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, *Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, *United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, *United States, *Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, *Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, *Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Founding Member

Security Council

The Security Council has 15 members. The Charter has designated five States as permanent members, and the General Assembly elects 10 other members for two-year terms. The term of office of each non-permanent member of the Council ends on 31 December of the year indicated in parentheses below.

The five permanent members of the Security Council are: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States.

The 10 non-permanent members of the Security Council in 1993 are: Brazil (1994), Cape Verde (1993), Djibouti (1994), Hungary (1993), Japan (1993), Morocco (1993), New Zealand (1994), Pakistan (1994), Spain (1994), Venezuela (1993).

Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council has 54 members elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly. The term of office for each member expires on 31 December of the year indicated in parentheses below. In 1993, the Council is composed of the following 54 States:

Angola (1994), Argentina (1993), Australia (1994), Austria (1993), Bahamas (1995), Bangladesh (1994), Belarus (1994), Belgium (1994), Benin (1994), Bhutan (1995), Botswana (1993), Brazil (1994), Canada (1995), Chile (1993), China (1995), Colombia (1994), Cuba (1995), Denmark (1995), Ethiopia (1994), France (1993), Gabon (1995), Germany (1993), Guinea (1993), India (1994), Italy (1994), Japan (1993), Kuwait (1994), Libya (1995), Madagascar (1994), Malaysia (1993), Mexico (1995), Morocco (1993), Nigeria (1995), Norway (1995), Peru (1993), Philippines (1994), Poland (1994), Republic of Korea (1995), Romania (1995), Russian Federation (1995), Somalia (1993), Spain (1993), Sri Lanka (1995), Suriname (1994), Swaziland (1994), Syrian Arab Republic (1993), Togo (1993), Trinidad and Tobago (1993), Turkey (1993), Ukraine (1995), United Kingdom (1995), United States (1994), Yugoslavia (1993), Zaire (1995).

Trusteeship Council

The Trusteeship Council has five members—China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States—which are also the five permanent members of the Security Council.

International Court of Justice

The International Court of Justice has 15 members, elected by both the General Assembly and the Security Council. Judges hold nine-year terms, which end on 5 February of the year indicated in parentheses below.

The Judges, listed in their official order of precedence, are:

Sir Robert Yewdall Jennings of the United Kingdom (2000), Shigeru Oda of Japan (1994), Manfred Lachs of Poland (1994)*, Roberto Ago of Italy (1997), Stephen M. Schwebel of the United States (1997), Mohammed Bedjaoui of Algeria (1997), Ni Zhengyu of China (1994), Jens Evensen of Norway (1994), Nikolai K. Tarassov of the Russian Federation (1997), Gilbert Guillaume of France (2000), Mohamed Shahabuddeen of Guyana (1997), Andrés Aguilar Mawdsley of Venezuela (2000), Christopher G. Weeramantry of Sri Lanka (2000) and Raymond Ranjeva of Madagascar (2000), Bola Ajibola of Nigeria (1994).

---

* Judge Manfred Lachs died on 14 January. The election to fill the vacancy will take place on 10 May.